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Inter-Arab Affairs

7-Point Plan To Solve Lebanese Crisis

LD1609124389 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Statement by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the results of meetings by the higher Arab three-man committee on Lebanon at a news conference at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah on 16 September; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A statement by the higher Arab tripartite Committee:

The higher Arab tripartite committee, pursuant to the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Casablanca from 23 to 26 May 1989 for solving the Lebanese crisis; in order to put an end to bloodshed; out of eagerness to spread an atmosphere leading to a return of security and stability to Lebanon; to provide a suitable atmosphere for national accord as there is no solution to the Lebanese crisis by military means; in reference to the contacts which the committee made previously with all international and regional sides for halting the supply of arms and ammunition to the Lebanese sides; has decided:

1. To enact an immediate cease-fire embracing all regions of Lebanon.

2. To form a Lebanese security committee headed by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representative of the higher Arab tripartite committee in Lebanon.

The security committee will supervise and implement a cease-fire, and control shipping when the Lebanese security commission receives information that they are carrying weapons and ammunition to any side.

3. To lift the sea blockade and reopen Beirut International Airport as soon as the Lebanese security committee starts its duties.

4. To appeal to all factions in Lebanon to refrain immediately from importing all kinds of arms from any side, and also to halt all media campaigns.

5. To invite all parties concerned, and those which voiced support for the tripartite committee in its mission to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, to use all their capabilities in order to halt any arms supplies to which ever side in Lebanon. The higher tripartite Arab committee has made the necessary contacts and received full support to achieve this aim.

6. To invite members of the Lebanese chamber of deputies to meet, prepare, and discuss the document of national concord on 30 September 1989, once the cease-fire is in force, the sea blockade has been lifted, and Beirut International Airport has been reopened. The value of the meetings of deputies will be announced following the consultations that are to be undertaken by Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi in this connection.

7. It has been decided that Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi will go to Lebanon on Sunday 17 September 1989 to put this decision into force. tripartite meeting

Prince Sa'ud Holds News Conference in Jeddah

LD1609224989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Report on news conference by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, in Jeddah on 16 September]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal answered questions from journalists.

In reply to a question concerning Arab affairs, HRH said that Arab affairs are the concern of the Arab states among themselves, and they neither await nor expect the agreement of any outside party to look into their issues and find [words indistinct] to the answers which they expect. HRH went on to say that the Arab system which is responsible for Arab interaction or Arab cooperation in all fields consists of two basic institutions. These are the Arab summit and the Arab League, and they define the aims and national Arab interests and seek to establish institutions or any other organs which it requires to solve its problems. HRH added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia works within the context of Arab institutions and will continue in this direction and to bear its responsibilities in accordance with these collective responsibilities, (?together) with any other Arab country in this framework.

Concerning the postponement of the visit of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, to the United States, HRH said: The postponement of the visit comes in the context of the efforts of the members of the tripartite committee to find a basic framework for resolving the Lebanese issue. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques remained here so that he could always be in touch with this issue and consult his [word indistinct] and brothers, the members of the committee.

Concerning the security committee, HRH emphasized that the security committee is supported by the tripartite committee, which, in turn, is supported and empowered by the Arab states.

HRH the minister of foreign affairs was asked whether the decisions of the committee are binding on the Syrian party? He said: we (?issued) a statement concerning the cessation of fighting, the lifting of the blockades, the opening of the crossing points and the creation of a climate which would lead to a meeting of the [Lebanese] deputies, and this is required from all parties. HRH went on to say that, after the recent contacts with the brothers in Syria we have no doubt that they agree and support this line. Naturally, this is what we hope and expect. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on whether sanctions will be imposed on any party which does not respect the provisions of the plan, HRH said that the tripartite committee will work within the resolution of the Arab summit conference, that this conference had set specific aims for itself, and that the political and security elements are linked to each other. In this respect, he pointed out the need to contact the members of the Chamber of Deputies for national concord in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

HRH was asked the committee's view on the imposition of Lebanese sovereignty on all Lebanese national soil, and the Syrian view on the imposition of this sovereignty. He answered saying: As I said in the preamble to the statement, I spoke of the circumstances which followed the statement of the ministerial committee, on behalf of the higher committee, in Algiers. At that time it was announced that it had reached a deadlock [words indistinct]. I also spoke many times in answer to other questions which followed that, about the charter of national concord, on the meeting of the brother deputies, and on the basis of resolving the Lebanese situation within the context of a political dialogue among the Lebanese so that that becomes pillar for focusing on other issues. Namely, that the basic pillar is what would enable the Lebanese state to be a unified one and to establish Lebanese institutions. All other elements are directed at arriving at this desired objective, which was the axis and focus of the deliberations of the last summit conference and which, consequently, was the axis and the focus of the activities of the committee, in accordance with this resolution.

HRH went to say that since the announcement of the committee's statement in Algiers, contacts took place between members of the committee and between leaders of the tripartite Arab committee. Also, other Arab and international contacts took place in this context. Now, following the final evaluation of the result of these contacts and deliberations, the committee has become convinced that it now has a framework for Lebanese concord which would enable it to present a complete and comprehensive document to the deputies when they meet. HRH went on to say that, put in another way, and in a direct response to the question, I say: Yes, we arrived at a common view concerning the points over which the committee and the brothers in Syria had disagreed. However, there is now one viewpoint concerning the principal elements, and this is what will be put forward to the deputies when they meet. [passage omitted]

HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal went on to say: When we talk about security and the nonsupply of weapons to the parties inside Lebanon, we should say that, concerning these questions outside Lebanon, the committee's role will be comprehensive, and this is one of the major elements in the process of a cease-fire. HRH stressed that, regarding the situations outside Lebanon, this will be the concern of the higher tripartite committee.

Concerning a question about whether parliament or the tripartite committee will define the withdrawal of foreign forces, HRH the foreign minister said: The presence of elements of non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon should (?facilitate) and not obstruct Lebanese national accord. Consequently, the deputies will meet in order to decide upon [word indistinct] Lebanese reforms. Concerning the non-Lebanese forces and the measures which should be taken in the respect—these are the measures which should help and contribute toward [word indistinct] Lebanese concord. [passage omitted]

Concerning the presence of Iranian parties inside Lebanon, HRH replied: Any forces, whether Iranian or non-Iranian, come within the framework of the imposition of the sovereignty of the Lebanese state with its own forces. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

USSR's Tarazov Meets 'Arafat in Baghdad

LD2908214889 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2015 GMT 29 Aug 89

["Pool" item]

[Text] Baghdad, August 29 (TANJUG)—The Soviet foreign minister's special envoy Gennadiy Tarasov today met in Baghdad with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) President Yasir 'Arafat.

As learned, the unannounced meeting which was held behind closed doors focused on current developments in the Middle East, especially in the occupied Arab territories and in Lebanon. Tarasov and 'Arafat indicated the need for the soonest possible calling of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Observers here believe that the two sides have reached full accord and a closeness of views also on the resolving of the Palestinian problem and the crisis in Lebanon.

This especially pertains to the assessment that the two problems are intermingled, that one cannot be solved independently of the other.

Tarasov yesterday met with Iraqi vice-president and foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz, to whom he delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Iraqi president Saddam Husayn.

The Soviet envoy tonight left Baghdad for Moscow.

Hurani Defines Principles for Israeli Dialogue

NC1509160089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (MENA)—A Palestinian official has stated that the PLO outlined the principles for a Palestinian- Israeli dialogue during its recent meeting in Tunis.

In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said the PLO defined these principles as follows:

First, the negotiating delegation should include Palestinians from inside and outside the territories to confirm the unity of the Palestinian people.

Second, the dialogue should be held without preconditions and should discuss issues pertaining to the Palestinian problem.

Third, elections should be part of a process for a comprehensive solution.

Fourth, the dialogue should not be substituted for or separated from an international solution.

Meanwhile, AL-WATAN reports that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has postponed his October visit to New York until November. Citing a Palestinian source, the newspaper says that the postponement comes after Palestinian and Arab advice.

AL-WATAN adds that it is not beneficial to raise the issue of an entry visa to the United States now, when the U.S. Administration intends to wage a battle against the Zionist lobby in Congress over the Palestinian issue.

PLO Radio Reports Executive Committee Statement

JN1509191989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1843 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has affirmed anew that any elections in our occupied Palestinian territories must not be held under the Israeli occupation.

In a statement issued in Tunis yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee says that the elections must be held after the evacuation of the occupation troops and under international supervision. The statement adds that the elections must be part of a comprehensive peace process in the region.

The PLO Executive Committee recommends that the PLO Central Council be called into session next month to discuss the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question.

The statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee asserts that the PLO will in no way allow any party to bypass it or make it abandon its peace initiative. The statement also expresses the PLO's readiness to take part in any preparatory or executive steps designed to pave the way for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, including steps concerning holding a dialogue with the parties to the conflict under UN supervision and with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Bethlehem Mayor on Election Prospects, Intifadah

PM1509092089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 89 p 1

[Layla Dib report: "Ilyas Frayj Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian Negotiator Is in Tunis"]

[Text] Amman—Ilyas Frayj, mayor of occupied Bethlehem, has said that if the Israelis want to find a partner in negotiations, they must go to Tunis.

Frayj said this in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in response to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements in the United States, in which he admitted that his government has not yet found a partner in order to hold peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Frayj emphasized that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

He reiterated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election plan is not clear, except for the election clause which the United States says it supports. It also says that it supports "free, impartial, democratic" elections.

He said that the intifadah [uprising], which has entered its 22d month, is continuing strongly with the participation of all the groups of the Palestinian people. It expresses the Palestinian citizen's rejection of the occupation and the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

He added that the intifadah is a declaration to the world that the Palestinian people sincerely wish to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace principle and on giving the citizens the right to self-determination. The Palestinian people have made great sacrifices and are continuing their struggle to achieve peace.

He also said: We urge all the world's states, and especially the U.S. Government, to recognize the Palestinian people's political and national rights and their right to self-determination.

Answering a question about Bethlehem's position, Frayj said: It is part of the occupied territories and is offering a constant succession of martyrs. There are hundreds of youths in detention centers and prisons, and the strikes are continuing. The intifadah is the citizens' chief concern, despite the deteriorating economic conditions.

Palestinians To Participate in Election Talks

JN1609080489 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Sep 89 p 1

[By Jihan Tahiri]

[Excerpt] Tunis—An informed Palestinian source has stated in Tunis that the United States has abandoned its opposition to the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territory in a joint Palestinian

delegation to hold negotiations on the elections. In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, the Palestinian source said: There will be at least three people from outside the occupied territory, including Edward Sa'id and Ibrahim Abu-Lughud—two American citizens of Palestinian origin and Palestine National Council members. The third personality is Akram Haniyah, editor-in-chief of Jerusalem-based AL-SHA'B newspaper who was deported by the occupation authorities late December 1986 and who was recently elected a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

In his statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, the Palestinian source added: The Palestinian delegation from inside the occupied territory will not be less than 10 members, including Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Siri Nusabyah, and As'ad al-Saftawi. The source added that Egypt could be the venue for the negotiations.

Washington informed the PLO during the last round of talks in Tunis on 24 August of its rejection of the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territory in the negotiations on the elections in the West Bank and Gaza. Washington went back on this rejection when last week it agreed on the participation of Palestinian deportees from the occupied territory in the negotiations. Washington then informed Egypt of its agreement on the participation of American citizens of Palestinian origin in the negotiations during the visit to Washington by Israeli Defense Minister Rabin.

The source said that the PLO has not received any information on American-Israeli contacts on this issue or on whether Israel has agreed to hold negotiations with a Palestinian delegation consisting of Palestinians from outside the occupied territory. The source noted that Rabin has stated that he accepts the idea of Palestinian advisers from outside the occupied territory.

In another development, the source affirmed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the Palestinian delegation will insist—during the negotiations with Israel —that the elections must be one of the stages leading to a peaceful solution.

Regarding the 10 points presented by Egypt as an amendment to the elections idea, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI learned that these points were prepared in the past and that Palestinians had participated in laying down these points. However, the 10 points as they look now include American amendments after Cairo presented them to Washington.

The source added that the PLO studied the American amendments during its meetings yesterday and the day before. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Islamic Jihad Leader Interviewed

JN1309160089 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 27 Aug 89 p 14

[Interview with Dr Fathi Ibrahim, a leader of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine," by Muhammad al-Sa'id Idris; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-KHALIJ: The name "al-Jihad" is being repeated as one of the combatant factions and organizations in Palestine. The Islamic Jihad movement or organization has held a distinct and clear political view right from the start. The movement's irregular publication ISLAM AND PALESTINE has always presented this view. How did the Islamic Jihad movement begin in Palestine? And what were the motives behind the formation of this movement, which appeared several years before the outbreak of the Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising]?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: The Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine was formed in the early eighties. However, it began as a political and an ideological dialogue among Palestinian Muslim youth groups in Egypt in the seventies. This dialogue attracted a number of Palestinian youths belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood movement and others to the Palestinian nationalist trend. All these youths agreed on the specific conviction that there are certain weak points in a Palestinian nationalist plan that focuses on a national political ideology and eliminates Islam from its intellectual philosophy. At the same time, the youths noted the traditional Islamic movement had been absent from the struggle for the Palestinian cause during the fifties, sixties, and seventies. The situation was as follows:

Those carrying the banner of Islam were not fighting for the Palestinian cause, and those fighting for the Palestinian cause—that is the nationalist trend—eliminated Islam from their intellectual outlook and philosophy of the struggle. However, we Palestinian Muslim youths have discovered that Palestine exists in the heart of the Koran. It is a verse in the holy book. By such understanding, we discovered that the Palestine question is a central issue for the Islamic movement, the Islamic nation, and the Arab nation.

We reached this conviction after understanding the Koran, which in turn enabled us to understand Islam in all of its dimensions, as well as understand reality and the world. To us, the question is one of time. We discovered that the course of jihad in Palestine is the cause of salvation for us as individuals, a group, a people, and a nation. By the beginning of the eighties, this understanding and awareness developed into a real organization. This organization began its activity in the Palestinian arena with full force, because while the Palestinian question had found a nationalist answer, it had not yet found an Islamic answer. Our people in Palestine were waiting for this Islamic answer.

We embarked on the first march of the struggle on the political and information levels within a large-scale popular mobilization to prepare the masses for another long militant stage. During that period, we resorted to all available and possible methods such as speaking at mosques, holding symposiums, issuing publications, and other methods. During that period, we were aware that armed struggle against the enemy was our path for liberation and salvation. Therefore, a year before we embarked on our political and media activities we began to prepare and form military cells. In 1984, our cells began armed struggle against the enemy, thereby opening a new stage in the Islamic Jihad.

This stage produced a strong issue—that is, the emergence of Islamic Jihad as a new reality in the political life in Palestine. The year before the outbreak of the intifadah—from October 1986 until October 1987—was the year of Islam in Palestine. That year was characterized by armed jihad operations carried out by the Islamic Jihad movement. Those activities peaked with the famous operation in which four sons of the Islamic Jihad fell on the threshold of Gaza. Here, I mean the battle of Al-Shuja'iyah. Through the lake of the blood of our martyrs, the intifadah erupted. Many historical, social, and political reasons stand behind the intifadah, but that day was the beginning of the third stage of the march of our movement. In this stage, our people entered a new stage in their militant history—that is, the stage of the continuous intifadah.

AL-KHALIJ: You said at the beginning that it was your distinguished understanding of Islam and the Koranic course that led you to realize that Palestine is the center of Islam and the Islamic movement. What is this distinguished understanding of the Koran and Islam in general with regard to the Palestine question?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: In fact, we all—as Palestinians—read the Koran. However, in light of our sound course we are able to understand the Koran, the Islamic sciences, reality, and the world within one integral concept which we could not understand before. The course led us to discover Palestine in the heart of the Koran. And our understanding of history and our realization of its dimensions helped us discover a high degree of convergence between history and the absolute mentioned in the Koran. So, history converged with the absolute on the land of Palestine.

History confirms to us that we have for 2 centuries been engaged in a violent conflict with the colonialist project which has entrenched Westernization in the region, created the Sykes-Picot agreement, and divided the Arab and Islamic homeland. Here, this historical fact converged with the absolute of the Koran which refers to the blessings of Palestine more than any other land. There are clear Koranic verses dealing with the nature of the conflict between the Israelites as a pervasive and arrogant political force and Islam and the Islamic phenomenon.

The conflict has moved from the early times of Islam to the present time. It moved from Mecca and al-Madinah in the 1st hegira century to Jerusalem in the 14th hegira century. We even see that the Islamic history extends between these two poles: From Mecca and al-Madinah to Jerusalem; from Hira' [the name of a cave in which the first verses of the Koran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad] to Camp David; from Bani Qurayzah [Arabian Peninsula's Jews who were later expelled by Phrophet Muhammad] to the Likud; from "they entered the very innermost parts of your homes" [Koranic verse addressed to the Jews on their captivity by the Babylonians] to "then did we grant you the return as against them." [Koranic verse referring to the Jews' return from the Babylonians' captivity to Palestine] This is as if history begins and ends in the Koran. Our understanding of history and the way we refer to it converges with absolute Koranic understanding. Both understandings come together in the land of Palestine. Hence, we are aware of the peculiarity of Palestine in the Koran, in our Arab and Islamic history, and in our conflict with colonialism in its ugliest form represented in the Zionist entity.

AL-KHALIJ: With this distinctive understanding of Palestine in the Koran, have you reached a distinctive vision of the raging conflict in Palestine and the future of this conflict?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: Through this understanding, we have concluded that the essence of the conflict in the region is that between the colonialist and the Islamic projects, and between the Western-Zionist alliance and the Arab and Islamic nation. This essence is now concentrated in Palestine and poses a threat to the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

Consequently, if we seek to confront the colonialist plan, we have to start from here, from Palestine. Palestine is the killing ground for the colonialist plan, as Israel is the heart of this plan. The continued existence of the Israeli entity negates any real independence of the nation and prevents the attainment of any real freedom or any real renaissance by the nation. These objectives and slogans will remain void of any real significance as long as Israel exists in the region. We believe that all ideologies which view this conflict, away from its Islamic dimensions on the one hand and from its comprehensive colonial dimensions on the other, will not be able to continue to cope with this conflict to the bitter end. Such ideologies will collapse on the road because of shortcomings in their perspective and also because of the way they perceive the conflict.

Israel is neither only a U.S. aircraft carrier nor a trade agent for the West. Israel is first and foremost the protruding part of the colonialist-Zionist alliance, which is targeting the future and wealth of this region. The dangers posed to the Arabs and Muslims by this alliance are comprehensive in nature. As long as Israel exists, our subservience to the West will remain on all intellectual,

political, economic, and military levels. This will also prevent us from putting into effect our unique plan.

The conflict, then, is undoubtedly a fateful one. It is a conflict of existence between the Zionist plan and the Islamic one. According to this understanding, we have affirmed that this sacred homeland, Palestine, can in no way accommodate more than one people; namely, the Palestinian people. Nor can this homeland accommodate more than one sovereignty; that is, the Palestinian sovereignty. Such a perspective contains no racist attitudes toward Jews, as the Jews lived unharmed and without suffering any discrimination under the rule of Islam. However, we believe that there can be no two political authorities in Palestine. We also believe that there can be no two peoples in Palestine. The conflict must be settled in favor of one people and one sovereignty.

AL-KHALIJ: What are the points of difference between your view of the conflict as an Islamic Jihad movement member, and that of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, which has begun to play a tangible role in the political and struggle spheres in Palestine?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: Before speaking about the difference between our view and Hamas' view of the conflict, we must speak first about the difference between us and the traditional Islamic movement; that is the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Hamas, which appeared on the scene recently after the outbreak of the intifadah, is an intellectual extension of the Muslim Brotherhood line.

To the traditional Islamic movement, the Palestine question is just another Islamic issue. They do not make a distinction between the Palestine question and any other Islamic issue such as the issue of the Muslims in the Philippines, Kashmir, or Eritrea. They believe that the Palestinian problem can only be resolved after the establishment of the Islamic state outside Palestine. This Islamic state, if established, would then undertake the responsibility of raising the banner of Jihad and march toward liberating Palestine as an Islamic land just as any other colonized or occupied Islamic territory.

We differ with this view, because we consider Palestine a special case in many ways. It is special with regard to the history of the conflict in the area. It is also special because Palestine exists in the heart of the Koran. Therefore, it must be viewed as the Muslims' most important issue. It cannot be compared to any other issue or problem facing the Islamic world. The danger of any other issue is confined to those directly involved. But as far as the Palestine question is concerned, the danger threatens every Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim, and in fact every oppressed person. This is the first point of difference.

The second point of difference is our refusal to wait for the establishment of the Islamic state before starting to liberate Palestine. We believe that the talk about establishing the Islamic state first is a fallacy. We of course support the establishment of an Islamic state on every Islamic territory, and in fact everywhere. We call for the establishment of an Islamic state raising the banner of Islam. However, we cannot use the nonestablishment of such a state as an excuse to delay the jihad for the liberation of Palestine.

We also believe the opposite. We believe that inasmuch as we advance toward Palestine and inasmuch as we wage our jihad as Muslims in Palestine, the Islamic role in the region and the world will be stronger. We also believe that inasmuch as the Islamic movements highlight the Palestine question and rally the people around this cause, these movements will become stronger in their countries and become legitimate. We reject the saying that there should be a grand imam to carry the flag of jihad and that we should wait for him to appear in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, or any other place to embark on the liberation of Palestine. For this, we differed with the proposals of the traditional Islamic movements represented by the Muslim Brotherhood.

AL-KHALIJ: Do you believe that this traditional Islamic view that the Islamic Brotherhood group harbored was a pretext to evade the jihad for the sake of Palestine, or was it a view stemming from the role of this movement?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: The truth is that I do not want to think badly of the traditional Islamic current. I would like to add that we view our jihad in Palestine as an awakening for the Arab nation as well as the Islamic nation.

With regard to the stand on Hamas, I would like to say that Hamas' strong and serious participation in the intifadah has reduced the distance between us. There still might be different analyses between us. And we also have a clearer approach to the conflict than Hamas. But their participation in the intifadah has made the distance on the national Palestinian level shorter. Their adoption of the continuous armed struggle against the enemy will make the distance even shorter if they prove their credibility.

AL-KHALIJ: What about your differences with the rest of the Palestinian national movements and organizations?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: The differences with them are on more than one ideological and political level. On the ideological level, we believe in the role of Islam in the battle and the people's liberation movements. We also believe that the doctrine, the faith in God, and dealing with Islam as an ideology are our most important weapons in resisting colonialism and achieving independence and prosperity. Meanwhile, the national Palestinian forces split into two parts with regard to the Islamic phenomenon throughout the fifties and sixties. The first part believed that religion is a personal matter and that every person is free to hold or not hold his religious rites. And this has nothing to do with the issue of struggle. This means dealing with religion as rites only and as a relationship between man and his God. The second part renounced religion and fought it out of the conviction that religion fragments the national front against colonialism, and, consequently, its role must be annulled completely.

Regarding political differences, there is no doubt that we were in agreement at first regarding the need to liberate all the Palestinian national soil. But the ideological and intellectual germ inside the Palestinian national liberation movement prompted that movement to toe the official Arab line and make strange and astonishing concessions in the past 20 years. This is why we sharply differed with the Palestinian nationalist line when it called for recognizing the Zionist entity and sharing Palestine between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people.

AL-KHALIJ: It is difficult to generalize and treat all Palestinian forces the same way. What you say may be true of certain narrow-minded movements and organizations; that is those organizations which deal with the Palestine question on a regional basis, which is why they agreed with the Arab regimes on the recognition of the enemy and on the question of the two states. But the question is very different as far as the Palestinian national forces are concerned. There is an important pan-Arab [qawmi] trend in Palestine which extends to Palestinians outside Palestine. These people uphold the pan-Arab view of the conflict. This view considers Israel the heart of the Western imperialist plan. It considers the current struggle in Palestine as a struggle between the imperialist-Zionist plan and the Arab national plan. Furthermore, it considers Palestine as a purely Arab land which is not subject to partition or division and that the conflict over it is one of existence, not borders. So, how do you view this logic?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: No doubt, the germ has distorted the logic of the nationalist movement and made it support such plans. We believe that in view of the unfair balance of power in the region in favor of the United States and Israel over the past few decades, resistance will only be possible through a holy war [al-muqaddas]. Holy war alone can ensure confrontation. If the pan-Arab trend can wage a holy war, then it can resist and continue the struggle. But if it lacks this ability, then it will face the same problems as the natiolnalist trend.

AL-KHALIJ: You are raising a false issue by making a distinction between Arabism and Islam. We believe that Arabism and Islam go together. They are essential for the nation's salvation. Those who call for separating Arabism from Islam are the enemies of Arabism and Islam and are serving hostile plans. How does the Islamic Jihad movement view the issue of Arabism and Islam?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: We do not see any contradiction between Arabism and Islam. The contradiction is created by those who attribute to Arabism meanings and concepts that are contradictory to Islam. If Arabism is not burdened with such things, then there is no conflict or problem between Arabism and Islam. In fact, there will be harmony and unity. We are certain that Islam is not facing a problem from Arabism, but from the ideologies that conflict with its basic principles.

AL-KHALIJ: The problem of Arabism is with the enemies of Islam. Therefore, the issue is one and the objective is the same.

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: Throughout our life in Palestine, we have decided that we have one basic enemy—that is, the Zionist enemy; that the conflict must be waged with this enemy; and that anything else is considered ideological or political differences with the Palestinian forces in the arena. These ideological and political differences could be resolved through continuous dialogue, not any other method. Violence must be directed against one party only, the Israeli enemy. We cannot enter into a conflict or clash with the Palestinian parties with whom we differ. I talk with them and discuss things quietly and objectively without any provocations or battles.

AL-KHALIJ: How was this view reflected on your alliances and your relations with the other Palestinian forces?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: Theoretically, we believed in the need to establish alliances with any party that wants to fight the enemy. However, for practical reasons that are outside our will and because of the historical conditions which everybody faced, we could not achieve this on the ground. All that we could achieve was to reach an understanding on many issues and to agree on a common view toward partial issues. But, we did not enter into a political coordination with any party.

With regard to the intifadah, all parties are now participating in it because all the Palestinian people are participating in it. Therefore, the coordination is spontaneous. At the beginning of the intifadah, there was a dialogue to associate the Islamic Jihad movement with the Unified National Leadership. However, the dialogue produced no results. Therefore, the Jihad movement did not participate in the national leadership. However, there was real coordination on the ground and we agreed that cooperation is the basis. We ruled out any possibility of collision and decided that the stone has to go one way and to hit one target, the occupying enemy. We do not deny our political differences, but these differences must not have an impact on the violence of our blows to the enemy.

AL-KHALIJ: What will be your stand if the differences reach the future of the intifadah itself? And, what will be your stand if the PLO accepts the American-Israeli settlement plan and autonomy?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: There is no doubt that the intifadah is an exceptional event in the history of the Palestinian people. In each day of the intifadah, we discover the greatness of the Palestinian people and the march and mechanism of the intifadah. The intifadah has placed the Zionist plan since 1984 in an impasse and has proved that the Zionist entity could be shaken, despite its possession of an atomic bomb and advanced military technology.

The Zionist entity is a fragile society that can be blown up from within by many means. For example, it cannot stand the death of 100 of its people in a car explosion, for instance. Such an incident is considered a national disaster that is not less disastrous than the national disasters inflicted on the Jews in their history.

Therefore, we believe that a full rallying of the unexploited Palestinian resources will hurt and embarrass the enemy and make it consider withdrawal. The killing of the military police commander made Knesset members demand withdrawal. You must have heard what Rabin said a few days ago. He said that if the distance between Israel and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had been only one-tenth of that between France and Algeria, they [the Israelis] would have withdrawn a long time ago. Therefore, they feel the disaster, but they conceal the feeling because of their security dilemma. We can turn this sense of disaster into a reality if we rally all our resources and all our efforts, from which only a very small portion has been utilized.

AL-KHALIJ: Does this mean that there are prospects for escalating the intifadah from stonethrowing to armed mass violence against the enemy?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: Such an escalation is relevant and likely. For our part, we are preparing ourselves for it and mobilizing our personnel and cadres on its basis. We seek to mobilize the entire nation for it and call on it to carry arms as of now to confront the enemy. I believe that had it not been for some Palestinian leaders' instructions received here banning the use of arms, an early escalation would have taken place. We believe that in view of the clear intransigence of the Israeli policies, we and our people have no option but to escalate armed action.

AL-KHALIJ: But don't some PLO leaders believe that this escalation might lead to the termination of the intifadah?

Dr Fathi Ibrahim: I believe this opinion could have been convincing during the first months of the intifadah when the masses used to stage crowded demonstrations throughout Palestine. However, armed struggle now gives the masses self-confidence and make them feel that the enemy as well is suffering and being hurt. This will make them offer more sacrifices and exert further efforts. Tangible escalation in the intifadah has been witnessed whenever our heroes and strugglers carried out militant operations inside the Palestinian arena.

Therefore, reality has proven that this opinion is being promoted out of a misconception. It should be reviewed by all. We are not asking for a bomb to be thrown from within the crowded popular masses or from within the demonstrations. We, from inside the demonstrations or crowds, throw the stones. However, there are vast areas extending across occupied Palestine's borders and inside the 1948 occupied territories, nay, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, from which we could continue our struggle.

AL-KHALIJ: Perhaps the reason for this opinion stems from the fear that the enemy might resort to dealing with the intifadah—in the case that weapons are used—from a military perspective and respond to and deal with it as an armed military movement. Therefore, it would see this as justification to terminate the intifadah militarily before international world public opinion.

Fathi Ibrahim: When a struggler, for example, forces a bus off the road, as happened about a month ago in the al-Qastal operation, and overturns it into a ravine along with the 40 Jews on board, 16 of which die and the rest are injured—what was the enemy able to do? Could it determine that this hero emerged from the heart of a demonstration and, therefore, resorted to using cannons to oppress the demonstrations? Of course it could not use this excuse because the demonstrators in all parts of the occupied territories still throw stones. Therefore, I do not believe that the enemy can justify directing its weapons in the face of demonstrators. Reality dictates that any of the operations we have carried out during the intifadah did not give the enemy any excuse to increase the oppressive measures of the intifadah. The process of escalating ways to foil the intifadah continues within its plan to confront the intifadah. Facts also say that our operations push our people to more sacrifice and giving and further escalation of the intifadah. We will not see it push the enemy so far as to direct its gunfire on the demonstrators or villages or camps from which the demonstrations start, because this lies beyond the scope governing the relationship between the Zionist enemy and the intifadah movement. This logic has a defined ceiling which cannot be exceeded in the eyes of the Israeli and international communities. We only use stones during the demonstrations.

Knesset Deputy Darawishah Interviewed

PM1509085089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6-12 Sep 89 p 11

[Interview with Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] Are you visiting Cairo in your capacity as an Israeli Knesset member or as a Palestinian resisting the occupation inside his country?

[Darawishah] I have come to Cairo not in my capacity as a Knesset member or representative of any circles in Israel but, rather, as one of the strugglers of the Palestinian people, who are resisting the occupation inside. This, in addition to my capacity as leader of the Arab Democratic Party—the first Arab party inside Palestine under the Israeli military occupation. I have come at the head of a delegation of that party to meet with Egyptian National [Democratic] Party leaders in the hope that our meeting will result in strong cooperation.

[Interviewer] Some say that you have adapted to the Israelis' policies in the occupied territories and abandoned the Palestinian people's national objectives.

[Darawishah] That has not happened at all. The best answer to your question can come from the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied areas and the PLO leaders. Ask them about the deputy who always opens his heart, mind, and home to the sons of his homeland, alleviates the occupation's oppression of them, and offers them a supporting hand. They will say it is 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah. If anyone says otherwise, I am willing to go Yasir 'Arafat on my hands and knees from Jerusalem to Tunis so that he can kill me, rather than hearing that I have adapted to the Israelis' policies.

[Interviewer] What provisions have you and your party made for the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] since it erupted 20 months ago?

[Darawishah] Since the moment began we have announced continuous strikes with my Palestinian brothers inside [the occupied territories] in support of the intifadah. We have also staged demonstrations and I, together with the Arab Democratic Party, have coordinated the follow-up committee's decisions. We have visited all the Palestinian villages, cities, and prisons, defying the fascist laws imposed by the occupation forces. Before my arrival in Cairo I led a demonstration in response to the settlers' burning of the Palestinians' vineyards. Because of my material and moral support for the intifadah the military authorities brought me to court twice on the pretext of my having perpetrated terrorist acts, and I am still awaiting the verdict.

[Interviewer] Why did you agree to join the Israeli Labor Party in 1984, when you knew beforehand that your presence and that of a few Arabs inside that party was merely a store of votes?

[Darawishah] We must restore the atmosphere that prevailed in 1984. The Likud Party remained in power for 7 years, during which it discriminated against our people, pursued the "greater Israel" policy, and annexed the occupied territories in the West Bank, thus creating a feeling of frustration. In 1984 the Labor Party portrayed itself as a party of peace when its leaders led a 400,000-strong protest demonstration against the Sabra and Shatila massacres, but later we discovered that this was play-acting on the Israelis' part. Together with a number of Arab intellectuals, I considered joining that party to serve our country's cause. And the Palestinians nominated me for the 1984 elections.

[Interviewer] And why did you leave the Israeli party?

[Darawishah] Experience showed us that the Labor Party was not serious about peace, since it did not demonstrate its credibility. The dispute began when I went to Amman to attend the Palestine National Council meeting. The Israelis attacked me and sent me to court, but I continued to work with the two Palestinian leaderships, both inside and with the PLO outside. The dispute reached its peak when the intifadah started, so I announced my departure to 50,000 Palestinians whom I urged to continue the intifadah. I attacked Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy, urged the participants to strike and called for the formation of the Arab Democratic Party.

[Interviewer] Would anyone wanting to serve his country agree to sit down and cooperate with his enemies?

[Darawishah] I have not cooperated with the enemies. The Palestinian brothers inside and outside are well aware of this. All my steps inside are taken under instructions from Yasir 'Arafat and a number of PLO leaders, who are familiar with them. Whoever made these allegations understands the reality which the Palestinians are experiencing inside. Some 100,000 of them are entitled to vote and nominate themselves for the various executive bodies. They want to form a political force that can influence the ruling military institution, in order to achieve equality and resolve the problems of territory, education, budgets, housing, and employment.

[Interviewer] As a member of the Israeli Knesset, what is your true feeling, when your roots are in al-Nasirah?

[Darawishah] We are an integral part of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation in terms of our civilization, language, culture, and pan-Arab affiliation.

Besides, we did not choose Israeli citizenship: It was imposed on us by the occupation. That citizenship entails laws, duties, and rights. This is why I participate in membership of the Knesset in defense of our rights and in adherence to them, in order not to give the extremist Jews the opportunity to claim that we have no rights within the Israeli state.

[Interviewer] Some people maintain that you do not deserve to hold an Arab passport.

[Darawishah] I am serving my homeland's cause from within. I do not cooperate with the Israelis; in fact I lie in wait for them [Iqif lahum bilmirsad], just as other Palestinians do outside the occupied territories. Our objective is to establish our independent state. The day that state is established I will await its leaders' ruling: either honor or execution.

Algeria

Prime Minister Hamrouche Announces New Cabinet

NC1609191789 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Algiers, Sept 16 (AFP)—Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche announced the composition of a largely reshuffled government Saturday, with changes in the foreign affairs, economy and interior portfolios, among others.

Only three ministers kept their jobs and many of the names are newcomers to the government, according to the official announcement.

The new foreign minister, Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, was finance minister in the government of Kasdi Merbah, who was relieved of his post by President Chadli Bendjedid last weekend.

Ghazi Hedouci, who headed the department of economic and financial affairs in the presidency, becomes economy minister.

The new interior minister is Mohamed Salah Mohammedi. He had been cabinet office chief in the government of Abdelhamid Brahimi, who was replaced last November by Mr. Merbah in the wake of bloody anti-government riots.

A single minister of industry, Hassan Kahlouche, replaces the ministers of light and of heavy industry.

Mr Ghazali, who replaces Boualam Bessaieh as foreign minister, had been finance minister since November. Aged 52, he is considered a supporter of recent moves toward political and economic liberalism.

He headed the state oil and gas corporation Sonatrach from 1966 to 1977 and was later ambassador in Brussels.

The new economy minister Ghazi Hedouci is one of the principal architects of recent economic reforms, in particular that giving autonomy to public enterprises.

The portfolio of finance minister disappears, while in conformity with Algerian practice the defence portfolio does not exist and is in effect held by the head of state.

President Appoints New Cabinet

LD1609211189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] According to Article 75 of the Constitution and persuant to the statement of the Presidency issued on 9 September 1989, Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, head of the government, has submitted to the president the names of members of his government. The president has appointed the following:

Minister of foreign affairs	Ahmed Sayed Ghazali
Minister of justice	Ali Benfliss
Minister of religious affairs	Dr Said Chibane
Minister of interior	Mohamed Salah Mohammedi
Minister delegate for local communities	Ben Ali Henni
Minister of education	Mohamed Mili Brahimi
Minister delegate for universities	Dr Abdessalem Ali Rachdi
Minister of youth	Dr Abdelkader Boudjemaa
Minister delegate for vocational training	Abdennour Keramane
Minister of economy	Ghazi Hedouci
Minister delegate for trade organization	Ismail Koumeziane
Minister of social affairs	Mohamed Ghrib
Minister delegate for employment	Mohamed Kara Ammar
Minister of agriculture	Abdelkader Bendaoud
Minister of industry	Hassan Kahlouche
Minister of equipment	Cherif Rahmani
Minister of mines	Sadek Boussenna
Minister of transport	El-Hadi Khediri
Minister of post and telecommunications	Hamid Sidi Sa'id
Minister of health	Dr Akeli Kheddis
Secretary of state for Meghreban affairs	Abdelaziz Khellef
Secretary general for the government	Ahmed Mejhouda

Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, following his reception by the president of the Republic who carried out these appointments, made an initial comment to the television correspondent. Let us listen to it:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr head of government, following your audience with the president of the Republic, can you give us an initial comment?

[Hamrouche] Yes, I have been received by the president of the Republic and I presented to him the composition of the new government. As you may have noticed, deep alterations have been introduced to the structure of the government in a way that meets the requirements of the current stage and the prerequisites of the situation. The brother members of the government will immediately undertake the task of normalizing the situation. They will, as I have said before, through dialogue with all parties and by continuously listening to the citizens, work toward providing the material and technical assistance to all parties to face up to the present situation and to get rid of the existing disturbances in the economic situation and in the market. This is the initial comment I can utter right now. [end recording]

Hamrouche Reveals 'Objectives' at News Briefing

LD1709011289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Mouloud Hamrouche held a news conference with the national journalists. Mr Mouloud Hamrouche made an opening statement in which he said: the president of the Republic has appointed the members of the government according to Article 75 of the Constitution.

If you have noticed some changes in the organization of the government's structure and the ministerial tasks, the changes have been made to respond above all to the main preoccupation—the continuation of the political, economic, and social reforms—and in the best conditions in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Constitution. This was the task which the president of the Republic had entrusted to me on 9 September. Our concern was based on three objectives:

First: In certain tasks traditionally assigned to ministries, we preferred to adopt the endeavors which correspond to the future reform of the central administration, the current democratic development, or both. We believe that the protection of the veterans and those who enjoy certain national liberation war's rights are best served by their organization, which is better qualified to consider their interests within a democratic framework.

It goes without saying that the technical and financial powers will be shouldered by the competent administrations.

Another field, the information dissimenation sector, according to the spirit of the Constitution, is no longer compatible with ministerial responsibility because the organization of this independent sector will soon be defined by law.

Similarly, it seemed to us that cultural issues could be better tackled today away from the rigidity of administration. All of the cultural, intellectual, and artistic actions will be combined in a suitable framework where the initiative should lie with the artists and the intellectuals, so they can help prepare and organize the best suitable programs to confront the challenges in this vital field—be it now or in the future. The government will speedily adopt the necessary initiatives in this direction.

Second: Some ministerial powers were combined out of a desire to bypass the narrow sectorial logic and to reduce the number of decisionmaking networks on the governmental level—thus organizing and controlling them. The coordination of planning tasks will be reinforced through the actual work of the National Council of Planning, which is the best apparatus to develop the reforms and propose the alternatives regarding the government's decisions in the economic and social fields. This structural organization is called upon to shoulder the task of implementing the reforms in the best conditions.

Third: again similarly, some of the decisive tasks, be they reform-related vocations or field tasks relating to economic and social vitality, have been assigned to ministers plenipotentiary. In sum, it is important that the collective government responsibility be followed to ensure the harmony of actions.

Following this statement the prime minister replied to a number of questions dealing with the various aspects of national life. The details will come to you in our second newscast tomorrow, God willing.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

NC1609071789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Baghdad this morning on a visit lasting several hours. Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived with the Palestinian leader.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met him at the airport.

Yasir 'Arafat and President Husni Mubarak will discuss constant consultations and coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders. These talks will deal with the latest developments in Palestinian issue in light of President Mubarak's 10 points on holding elections in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

Received by Mubarak

NC1609083789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0813 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo this morning.

They held talks about the current intensive Egyptian-PLO contacts on President Mubarak's 10-point plan on holding elections in the occupied Arab territories with the aim of attaining a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Meanwhile a senior official source has affirmed Cairo's willingness to host a Palestinian delegation of people from inside and outside the occupied territories, and an Israeli delegation to conduct negotiations that would be linked to a comprehensive solution that will be attained gradually and in stages.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1609141789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Foreign Ministry at noon today. Members of the Palestinian delegation accompanying 'Arafat also attended the approximately 1-hour-long meeting.

President 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation then held an in-depth meeting, which was also attended in part by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Both 'Arafat and Dr 'Abd-al-Majid declined to comment on these meetings.

The meeting between President 'Arafat and Dr 'Abd-al-Majid followed the tripartite meeting between them and the Swedish foreign minister.

An official source said this morning that Egypt has officially presented its 10-point plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israel through the Egyptian ambassador there. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid hosted a luncheon in honor of the Palestinian president and his accompanying delegation.

Ends Visit to Cairo

NC1609152189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening after a visit of several hours. [passage omitted]

Returns to Cairo 17 Sep

NC1709175489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1737 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Cairo this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Hani al-Hasan, member of the PLO executive committee; and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Departs After Airport Stopover

NC1709203589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Cairo for Tunis tonight after a 90-minute stopover at the airport. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Message to King Husayn on Arab Situation

NC1709162289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today sent a message to King Husayn of Jordan on the Arab situation in general and the recent 10- point Egyptian initiative in particular.

The message was conveyed by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day for a brief visit to Jordan.

Informed sources have disclosed that the message details the results of Cairo's recent contacts with various parties held to give momentum to the Middle East peace efforts.

Al-Baz' visit to Jordan falls within the framework of the continuous consultation and coordination between the two countries.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1509211689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Sten Sture Andersson, Swedish minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 3-day visit to Egypt. Upon his arrival, the Swedish minister said that he intends to discuss ways of furthering the Middle East peace process and to hear Egypt's views on peace efforts in the region. [passage omitted]

'Official Talks' Open

NC1609123289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Official talks between Egypt, Sweden, and Palestine opened at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Egyptian side; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, led the Palestinian side; and Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson led the Swedish side.

Peace Talks Termed 'Delicate'

NC1709102989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, has stated that the results of the current efforts to revive the peace process in the Middle East will materialize within a month.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today, Dr al-Baz said that the reason officials have refrained from revealing the contents of the recent Egyptian-Swedish-Palestinian talks is that the current stage is very delicate, and it is not in anyone's interest to turn the Palestinian issue into arguments for newspapers to publish.

He said: We do not want to announce something only to have the Israelis contradict it the following day.

On whether Egypt and Sweden are mediating to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, Dr al-Baz said: "We still have time."

Mubarak Meets Foreign Minister

NC1709101189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson at the presidential palace this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Swedish Ambassador Lars-Olof Brilioth also attended the meeting.

The Swedish foreign minister stated that he had discussed the current Egyptian initiative with President Mubarak. He affirmed that Sweden is supporting Egypt in its efforts to attain peace in the region and noted that the current initiative might be the next step toward achieving peace.

He said that his talks with President Mubarak were fruitful and constructive and that Egypt is playing a vital role in trying to resolve Middle East issues.

Andersson expressed his country's satisfaction with the cooperation with Egypt which covers all fields and stressed that bilateral ties can be further developed in the future.

Minister Holds News Conference

NC1709210189 Cairo MENA in English 1749 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sep 17 (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson today praised the role played by Egypt for the peace process in the Middle East and termed it as positive and constructive.

In a press conference he held here today, he welcomed the decision of the Israeli Cabinet to dispatch Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Cairo noting that this will pave the way for dialogue which is the best means for settling disputes.

The visit is significant as the region undergoes a critical stage which necessitates a fresh step, he said, warning against the increase of violence in the occupied lands.

Andersson said that he came to Cairo to preside over a meeting of Swedish ambassadors in the Middle East region, adding that the meeting was aimed at getting acquainted with the Mideast situation. "It is necessary to have the correct information in order to make sound resolutions," he explained.

The Swedish foreign minister pointed out that he discussed the Middle East situation with president Husni Mubarak, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and also with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat whom he met in Cairo. He noted that the current situation in the Middle East is critical and that there is a possibility for taking fresh steps towards the peace process.

Andersson warned that unless fresh steps are taken, the situation in the region will grow dangerous and therefore he sought information concerning all viewpoints towards the possiblity of adopting steps for consolidating the peace process.

The Swedish foreign minister reiterated that the Mideast situation is extremely critical. However, he said that in the future the sitution will be viewed better than two weeks ago due to the ideas put up recently. He pointed out that Egypt is playing a daring role in the Middle East. Andersson declined to give any more details, explaining that this time needs secrecy, bilateral talks maintaining silence, employing quiet diplomacy and declining to make any statements. "This means continuation of efforts without declarations in order to contribute towards solving the problem," he added. Asked on the formation of a Palestinian delegation including members from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Andersson said that it is necessary for the two parties and the two peoples to begin the dialogue. He stressed that there is a new chance which is more ample than two weeks ago.

The Swedish foreign minister denied reports published by today's press to the effect that he is undertaking a mediation task between the Palestinians and Israelis stressing that Sweden has a role in Mideast peace and in peace-keeping operations through the United Nations. "I am here as a friend to the Palestinians, the Israelis, and all parties," he said.

Elaborating, he said, we can talk with all parties without exception and without reservations. We might have played a role for starting the dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation because the two parties have had the wish to start the dialogue but there was no, repeat no, mutual confidence. However, they had full confidence in us and therefore they needed our assistance and we played the role of the postman." [quotation marks as received] He noted that Egypt is playing a constructive and effective role and that he came to discuss this role as the situation necessitates that the principal role be played by parties concerned in the region.

The Swedish Foreign Minister declined to reveal whether 'Arafat had informed him during their talks in Cairo of the PLO reaction towards President Husni Mubarak's prposals and objection by some parties to this plan. Andersson said that he believes that the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories are interested in entering into dialogue with Israel and that Israel should show the same concern. He called upon Israel to accept the dialogue if it claims to be a democratic state. He stressed the necessity of a dialogue among the various parties, pointing out that if there are differences, the dialogue is necessary. As for Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo, Andersson said that Rabin's visit will be useful for the dialogue with President Mubarak and his foreign minister and that there are other talks that will be held in New York, Washington, and the United Nations.

The Swedish foreign minister stressed the necessity of taking new steps during this fall, for the continuation of the situation is dangerous under the loss of patience, the extremist tendencies, and the escalation of violence.

Concluding, Anderson stressed that the election process is part of the comprehensive peace process and may be a new development and a step forward.

Foreign Minister Departs

NC1809100089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson left Cairo this morning following a 3-day visit to Egypt. He stated that he had held fruitful talks with Egyptian officials. He said that his country appreciates Egypt's basic role in the Middle East and the world. He pointed out that Sweden is interested in bolstering ties with Egypt and that there is potential for strengthening these relations in various fields. He noted that in view of his country's relations with all parties concerned, it can play a role in achieving peace in the Middle East. He said that he will visit Jordan today to meet with King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, and the prime minister for talks on the Middle East situation.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Silence on Israeli Missile

NC1609220289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR comments on Israel's launching of a long-range missile which fell near the Libyan coast the day before yesterday. It says that this is an extremely grave development proving that Israeli officials are continuing the policy of increasing tension in the Middle East at a time when international efforts are being directed toward establishing peace in the region.

In an editorial in its Sunday edition, AL-AKHBAR denounces the U.S. silence on this dangerous development, especially because of recent U.S. accusations that some Arab countries are trying to produce or acquire long-range missiles.

Commenting on the U.S. stand, AL-AKHBAR asks: What would happen if an Arab country test-fired such a missile? Would the supporters of Tel Aviv be content to remain silent in such a case?

Commentary on Israeli Response to 10-Point Plan

NC1509140289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "The Egyptian Proposals Have Set Israel a Difficult Test"]

[Text] It is no exaggeration to say that during their meeting which ended in Tunis yesterday the Arab foreign ministers were able to reemphasize that the Palestinian issue is the Arabs' primary issue. Hence they succeeded in rearranging the priorities of Arab diplomatic efforts and gearing them toward achieving peace in the coming stage. The Arab League Council stressed its continuing support for and full solidarity with the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] under the leadership of the PLO. It also decided to step up contacts with those countries which have not yet recognized the Palestinian state in order to urge them to recognize this state and establish diplomatic relations with it.

It is also no exaggeration to say that all the signs indicate that Israel has no alternative but to go back on the obstinate and intransigent policy of its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is ignoring all the essential changes that have occurred in the world, the region, and the sphere of the Israeli-Arab conflict. These changes require a revision of all the Israeli concepts. This is because the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, the escalation of their intifadah, and Arab joint action based on clear and calculated priorities will force Israel sooner or later to reconsider its policy on the Palestinian issue and the issue of peace in general.

The best indication of this is the reaction which the Egyptian 10-point plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has triggered. President Husni Mubarak announced this plan in order to facilitate a comprehensive solution based on the principles included in point 10 of the plan. These are that the Palestinian issue should be solved on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, guaranteed security for the states of the region, and recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the Egyptian plan contains other points which develop and explain the concept of elections in the occupied territories. These points deal with providing the necessary guarantees for the integrity of the elections.

The Egyptian proposals have caused a sharp division within the Israeli Cabinet. Voices within the Israeli governing coalition rejecting the continuation of the Israeli occupation have increased. The forum of four in the Israeli cabinet has held a second meeting within 48 hours to discuss the Egyptian proposals. These meetings were held despite Shamir's remarks that he opposes even the mere discussion of the Egyptian plan. The holding of these meetings is an indication that Shamir's remarks do not stand even for 1 day.

These Egyptian proposals form a concerted Arab reply to Shamir's plan which the Israelis themselves see has no chance of success. Undoubtedly, these proposals have put the ball back in the Israeli court. One source of optimism is the fact that the Egyptian proposals are being accompanied by diligent Egyptian efforts which will reach a climax during President Mubarak's talks in Paris, New York, and Washington. There are also intensified contacts at present between Washington and Moscow to prepare for a meeting between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers on 22 September. The two ministers will discuss the Egyptian proposals, which Washington has already declared are positive.

The U.S. State Department has informed Israel of Washington's support for the Egyptian proposals. Thus, the Egyptian proposals now form the pivot of political activity and the quest for peace. Judging from the Israeli reaction it is clear that the Egyptian proposals have broken the deadlock surrounding the peace process as a

result of the Israeli obstacles. At the same time, they have set Israel a difficult test. This might ultimately lead to drastic changes that could make Israel sincerely turn toward peace.

Undoubtedly, U.S. and European support for the Egyptian proposals and the Israeli Labor Party's positive stand on them will compel Shamir to think carefully before declaring his rejection of them.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Envoy To Visit Cairo

JN1609161289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Sep 89 p 23

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM and news agencies—A political source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that an Israeli envoy from the Israeli Foreign Ministry is expected to visit Cairo at the beginning of next week to meet with officials from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to explain the Israeli Government's position on the 10 points proposed by Egypt to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question.

The source said that the envoy's visit aims to make Egypt coordinate between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian leadership in order to hold a high-level meeting, attended by the United States and the Soviet Union, to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Israel's Rabin Arrives in Cairo 18 Sep

NC1809092489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit. He was received on arrival by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador in Cairo. Rabin made no statements to reporters upon his arrival in Cairo.

Prime Minister Leaves for Baghdad ACC Meeting

NC1509181989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation left Cairo for Baghdad this evening to attend the meeting of the heads of government of the members of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] due to begin in the Iraqi capital tomorrow.

The delegation accompanying Prime Minister Sidqi includes Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr, minister of justice; and Ahmad Radwan, cabinet secretary general.

The ACC heads of government will discuss a number of subjects relating to cooperation in various areas in light of the meetings of the pertinent ministers. The heads of government will submit the result of their meeting to the ACC leaders at the next summit, scheduled to be held in Sanaa on 25 September.

Arab Tripartite Committee Statement Welcomed

NC1709141789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has expressed great satisfaction with the statement issued by the Arab tripartite committee in Jeddah yesterday and noted that the implementation of the measures outlined in the statement would lead to a settlement acceptable to all parties.

An official statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry stressed Egypt's support for the tripartite committee's efforts and appealed to all parties concerned to respond to them, particularly by establishing a cease-fire and lifting the blockades to stop the destruction and end the suffering of the fraternal Lebanese people.

The statement added that Egypt hopes that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will meet at the proposed date and discuss the national reconciliation document so that security, peace, and stability return to fraternal Lebanon.

'Trade Exchange' Protocol With Sudan Signed

EA1609083089 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A protocol on trade exchange between Sudan and Egypt was signed in Cairo yesterday. The volume of the protocol amounts to 322,000,000 accounts dollars. Dr Faruq al-Bushrah, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply, who is presently on a visit to Cairo, signed for Sudan, and Dr Yusri Mustafa, the Egyptian minister of economy and external trade, signed on behalf of the Egyptian side.

Joint Commission With Rwanda Meets in Cairo

EA1409184289 Kigali Domestic Service in Swahili 1445 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Egypt and Rwanda have pledged their support for the holding of an international conference on the Middle East problem. The pledge was made at a joint commission meeting, which ended in Cairo today.

A joint communique said the two countries favored the idea of involving all the concerned parties in such a conference to be chaired by the United Nations.

The two countries condemned the apartheid policy of the South African Boers and declared their support for the efforts of South African citizens opposed to racial discrimination.

The Rwandan-Egyptian joint commission meeting opened in Cairo last Thursday [7 September]. The Rwandan delegation to the meeting was led by Dr Casimir Bizimungu, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, while the Egyptian delegation was led by the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali. The next session of the Rwandan-Egyptian joint commission will take place in Kigali next year.

Egypt 'Optimistic' on Mauritania-Senegal Talks

PM2308085189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 89 p 2

[Abdallah Ould Mohamedi report: "Mubarak's Envoy Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Optimistic About Settlement of Mauritania-Senegal Crisis"]

[Excerpt] Nouakchott—Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr has expressed optimism about the chances of success for Egypt's efforts, as OAU chairman, to settle the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said: "We are optimistic because we have sensed in the leaders of the two countries a desire to give the Egyptian mediation full range."

Sayf-al-Nasr, who was speaking after a visit to a camp at the national fair area where groups of Senegalese citizens of Mauritanian origin are living, said that paying field visits to these camps in both Mauritania and Senegal and listening to various testimonies on events would enable him to discern the truth and gather enough information to make it possible for Egyptian mediation to play a part in resolving the crisis.

The Egyptian envoy, accompanied by Egyptian Foreign Ministry official Ambassador Munir Zahran, had earlier met with Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. After the meeting, Sayf-al-Nasr said that the Mauritanian president told him that he was responsive to the recent African summit call for continued mediation between the two countries.

The Egyptian delegation's visit takes place as the crisis intensifies further. [passage omitted]

IRNA Says Senior Iraqi Officers Attempted Coup

LD1609115989 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Some 80 senior Iraqi officers have reportedly been arrested on charges of attempting a military coup d'etat against the ruling regime.

The Lebanese weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in a report Saturday quoting informed sources in Baghdad said that several university professors are also among those arrested.

The daily did not elaborate on the date of arrests.

Sadam Husayn Receives Yasir 'Arafat 17 Sep

JN1709163689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, here at noon today.

During the meeting, they discussed the brotherly relations between Iraq and the PLO and developments in the Palestine question and the Arab arena, especially the Lebanese issue.

President Saddam Husayn praised the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and our Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness in the occupied territories as well as their courage in the face of the Israeli occupation.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO chairman.

Comoran President Abderemane Visits Baghdad

Arrives 16 Sep

JN1609175389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a several-day visit to Iraq. His excellency was accorded an official reception at the airport. [passage omitted]

The Comoran president is accompanied by a delegation comprising Shaykh Mohamed Abderemane, the republic's grand mufti; Ahmed Abdah, the president's special adviser; Sa'id Kafe, minister of foreign affairs, cooperation, and foreign commerce; Mohamed Ali, minister of production, rural development, industry, and crafts; Seyyed Hassan Seyyed Hashem, minister of state for presidential affairs; and Ibrahim Abdallah, Comoran ambassador to Cairo and nonresident ambassador to Baghdad.

Official Talks Begin

JN1709200489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Official talks between Iraq and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros began in Baghdad today. His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn led the Iraqi side at the talks, and President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane of the Comoros led his country's team.

The Iraqi delegation also included Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs 'Abdallah Fadil. The Comoran delegation included (Ahmed Abdah), the president's personal adviser; Sa'id Kafe, minister of foreign affairs, cooperation and foreign commerce; Mohamed Ali, minister of production, rural development, industry, and crafts; and Mohamed Hasan, head of Arab and Islamic Affairs at the Presidency. [passage omitted]

The guest president congratulated President Saddam Husayn on the triumph scored by Iraq in the battle of defending its territory and sovereignty. The Comoran president said he hoped all sides would realize that no party stands to gain from war and, in order for people to live in happines and prosperity, there should be peace. He also hoped that peace would prevail between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

UN's Goulding Reviews Status of Observers

JN1509160789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, today met with General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN observers in charge of supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

During the meeting, which was attended by the delegation accompanying Goulding and senior officers, the UN observers work and situation were reviewed.

Goulding, who arrived in Baghdad last night, will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the situation of the UN observers. He will also discuss the UN obserservers presence in Iraq and prepare a detailed report for the UN secretary general on the UN observers situation and the extension of their mandate.

Talks With Nizar Hamdun

JN1709130189 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 17, INA—Foreign Undersecretary Nizar Hamdun met here today Mr Marrack Goulding, assistant UN secretary general for special political affairs and peace-keeping.

Mr. Goulding expressed during the meeting the UN secretary general's satisfaction over the level of existing cooperation between Iraq and the international forces

and aids rendered by competent Iraqi authorities to the forces for performing their tasks.

The meeting was attended by General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iraq-Iraq Observers Group [as received] (UNIIMOG).

On the other hand Mr Goulding inspected a number of positions of the international observers entrusted with supervising the Iraq-Iran ceasefire in Iraq.

Mr. Goulding met during his inspection tour a number of senior Iraqi officers and reviewed with them tasks of the observers team.

He was accompanied by General Jovic, commander of UNIIMOG.

Confers with Defense Minister

JN1709130389 Baghdad INA in English
1045 GMT 17 Sep 89

Baghdad, Sept 17, INA—Minister of Defence, General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, met this morning Mr. Marrack Goulding, the U.N. secretary general's assistant for special political affairs and peace-keeping.

During the meeting, the role of the international forces in maintaining peace between Iraq and Iran and efforts exerted by Iraq's competent authorities to assist these troops in their tasks were reviewed.

Mr. Goulding expressed appreciation over Iraq's sincere efforts aiming at engineering durable peace in the region.

Parliametary Delegation Returns From London

JN1709140589 Baghdad INA in English
1023 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 17, INA—The delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly headed by Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Janabi, secretary of the Assembly, returned home last night after participating in the 92nd session of the Interparliamentary Union reently held in London.

In a statement to INA the Iraqi official said that Iraq submitted three working papers that tackled the role of Iraqi women in building the national economy, the peaceful use of space for the benefit of humaniy and the situation of foreign debts of the developing countries.

Mr. al-Janabi added that the delegation participated in the symposium of European-Arab parliamentary dialogue held in Dublin of Ireland from 11-13 instant during which a number of questions were discussed particularly the Palestinian issue, the uprising in the occupied land, Lebanese crisis and the necessity of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Industry Minister Meets Zambian Defense Minister

JN1609135689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, today received Frederich Shumba Hapunda, Zambian minister of defense affairs, and his delegation. Husayn Kamil Hasan reviewed with the guest minister the development witnessed by the Iraqi industries both in the civilian and military areas over the years of the sacred defense war waged by Iraq against the Iranian regime's aggression.

Husayn Kamil Hasan stressed that the years of the defense war produced many lessons which are now benefiting Iraq in the areas of construction and development. He also pointed out that the industrial sector is currently witnessing the implementation of strategic projects in the various areas of heavy industries—projects that, if implemented, will move Iraq to the level of the technologically advanced countries and will constitute a main base for the development of the national economy.

The Zambian defense minister praised Iraq's leading experience in the military industrialization field, describing it as a rich experience and urging Third World countries to learn lessons from it.

Oil Minister Leaves for Montreal Conference

JN1609101689 Baghdad INA in English
1000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 16, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim left for Montreal this morning heading a delegation to participate in the 6-day meetings of the world energy conference due there tomorrow.

The conference will touch upon issues concerning the future of energy in the world, the available alternatives and their effect on the environment in general.

The Iraqi delegation groups specialists from the ministries and institutions concerned.

Planning Minister Cited on Development

JN1709131389 Baghdad INA in English
0955 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 17, INA—Minister of Planning Dr Samal Majid Faraj said that Iraq's economy had achieved a clear-cut and great development in its various activities, through implementing the developmental plans aiming at realizing an overall progress in all fields.

In an exclusive statement to the Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH daily published today, the minister said that despite the circumstances of the aggressive war imposed by the Iranian regime on our country with the aim of blocking the course of development, the Iraqi economic activity proved that Iraq had aborted all

hostile goals and largely succeeded in creating tangible progress in all economic domains.

The minister confirmed that per-capita income had increased besides the standard of living, where the rate of expenditure had icnreased through 1976 and 1988 in comparison with 1971-1972, where the rate of increase amounted for the said years 94 per cent and 713 per cent.

The minister said that Iraq's Gross National Product (GNP) had increased sixteen folds over the past two decades, adding that GNP increased from over 1.03 to 17.03 billion dinars since the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party came to power in 1968.

As for the industrial sector, the minister confirmed that the most important aspects of the industrial progress and national industrialization was the meeting of Iraq's needs by establishing new and gigantic industries in various branches of industry and military production.

The minister added that the number of the industrial establishments reached at 41,368 while it was 2808 recording an increase of 148 per cent and achieved labour opportunities for 225,000 workers.

The minister touched upon the next five-year plan and said that it aimed at finding balanced development among various economic sectors to build up solid economy which would achieve high and continuous increases in the national income and lead to raising the standard of living and narrow the gap and disparity in the incomes among the society's sectors.

The minister further said that the general trends of the plan aimed at developing the economic administration and increasing its efficiency to achieve the productive and investment goals.

Transport Minister Returns From Stockholm

JN1709105889 Baghdad INA in English
0935 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 17, INA—Mr. Muhammad Hamzah, transport and communications minister, returned home last night after chairing the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Joint Swedish-Iraqi Committee for Economic and Scientific Cooperation recently concluded in Stockholm.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that the agenda of the committee included several important subjects concerning bilateral relations in economic, scientific, industrial, transport and communications fields in addition to the participation of Swedish companies in the development process witnessed by Iraq.

Mr. Hamzah added that during the meetings, the Iraqi and Swedish sides signed a joint minutes for bilateral cooperation in different sectors.

Paper Mocks Iran's 'Moderation' Under Rafsanjani

JN1709110189 Baghdad INA in English
0915 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 17, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that all Iranian developments and realities do not indicate a change in the entire old Iranian political programs until now.

A daily commentary here today said that western political and information circles played a big role in the propagation of the stage of Rafsanjani and were still talking about moderation of Rafsanjani and his moderate wing and the government he had formed from the moderates.

The paper added that all facts and Iranian political practices inside and outside Iran indicate that there is no new affair in Tehran but in the course and behavior of actions and that there were no changes in the policies and objectives or the political languague of Iran.

AL-THAWRAH further stressed that there was no change in Iran's policies and programs and that naturally Iran remained revolving in a vicious circle of crises and problems that could not serve a way out with the mere change of the images of rulers.

The daily pointed out that Tehran rulers did not adopt until now a decision concerning the ultimate peace and are still rejecting serious and direct negotiations with Iraq to implement Resolution 598 and carry out a comprehensive repatriation of prisoners of war between the two countries. They are still playing with this human issue in the political negotiations, thus the daily inquired whether there was a change in Tehran through such stances and behaviors.

The paper also referred to the Iranian clear-cut intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs and said that Rafsanjani had dispatched a corps of the Iranian guards to the Lebanese town of Ba'labak under the pretext of supervising Iranian militias working under the guidance of former Iranian Interior Minister Mohtashimi.

It said that the Iranian regime through these forces boosted its military presence and political role in Lebanon more than any time before.

The daily further pointed out that Rafsanjani through sending new forces to Lebanon was after exercising a bigger and more effective role in the Lebanese crises and in the anti-Arab Zionist conspiracy aiming at destroying Lebanon.

'Forum of 4' Session To Reconvene 16 Sep

TA1509113089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The forum of four did not overcome the differences on the political issue and decided to reconvene on Saturday night [16 September], before Minister Shim'on Peres leaves for the United States.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that one of the issues in dispute is what position Ministers Peres and Arens will present in the United States: their parties' position or a joint government position.

Defers Decision on Mubarak Plan

TA1609203589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The forum of four concluded its meeting a short while ago. The ministers agreed that Israel's position on President Mubarak's proposal will be decided in the Inner Cabinet, after Ministers Arens and Peres return from their trips to the United States.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that there is no coalition crisis regarding the Israeli response to Mubarak's suggestion that an Israeli and Palestinian delegation convene for talks in Cairo, or regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said that Israel will negotiate with whoever is chosen in the elections in the territories. Arens said he believes that elections are the only legitimate way to further the peace process. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Arens was speaking at a debate sponsored by the Shinuy movement on the subject of Israel and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Continued Coverage of Reaction to Mubarak's Plan

Peres Comments on Plan

TA1709082189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay—live]

[Excerpt] [Barqay] Minister Peres, good morning.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Barqay] You are leaving for the United States with a partial agreement between the Alignment and the Likud. I use the word partial because it seems that the resolution reached sounds more like a political cease-fire than a full consent. Am I right?

[Peres] You are describing it as if it were a war of the Jews. The truth is that these are negotiations between us and the Palestinians. I believe that for the first time an opportunity has been created where there could be a Palestinian side for the negotiations. This is not insignificant, and it is not an interpartisan debate. This is a most serious issue. It is the most serious topic on Israel's agenda.

[Barqay] Yes, absolutely, this is first a question of negotiations between us and the Arabs. There is, however, a legitimate disagreement between the large components of the Cabinet on the appropriate ways to react. Is that right?

[Peres] Yes. Of course there is a disagreement. We could have reached a resolution otherwise.

[Barqay] What is the current state of affairs? How would you describe it?

[Peres] There is one thing that is not in dispute: In the negotiations we would present Israel's peace initiative which remains unchanged. It needs no corrections. There is no dispute on this. Disputes, however, exist on how to assess the Arab position. Naturally the 10-point document is not an Israeli draft, it is not written in Hebrew. Still, it is interesting to see what it includes as well as what it does not include. It includes some seven points that refer to procedures for the elections. This means that the Palestinians accept elections. This is first time that it is said, in many words and clauses, that they accept the issue of elections. It does not mention a Palestinian state, self-determination, return to the 1967 borders, the right of return. From this point of view it is an interesting document, if we take into account the fact that originally it is Palestinian. It also does not include, and does not mention the name PLO at all.

[Barqay] Yes, but the delegation it does mention includes two people who were deported—Muhammad Milhim and Akram Haniyah.

[Peres] You go even further than I do. I still do not know who the people are. Mentioning names would be merely speculative. This is a delegation of people who would not be PLO members. This is clear. As for the deportees, we have told some of them that if they behave properly they could return to Israel anyway. We talk about residents of the territories who are not PLO members. This is the principle.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, you are scheduled to leave for the United States. Will you find it easy to explain your position while there is no absolute agreement with the Likud concerning the response to the plan?

[Peres] My position is very clear. There are no disagreements between us on the Israeli peace initiative. It will be presented as an Israeli consensus. I have no intention whatsoever of hiding my personal opinion of the Egyptian proposal, which in itself is not so much in dispute. If President Mubarak will indeed bring about the meeting of the two delegations, I do not see why not. The other things [words indistinct] say what he thinks, and I will naturally present my point of view.

[Barqay] Are you going to meet President Mubarak?

[Peres] [Words indistinct] I do not know whether it would take place. I know that arrangements are being made.

[Barqay] So what we have are meetings between Mubarak, yourself, and Ministers Arens, and Rabin. [passage omitted]

Further on Peres Comments

TA1709195989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres of the Alignment says that we must not again miss the chance to launch negotiations for peace. He expressed the hope that a way would be found to surmount the differences between the Likud and Alignment ministers. Shim'on Peres was interviewed by our correspondent Hanan 'Azran just prior to his departure for the United States:

[Begin videorecording] [Peres] The argument at this point is not over whether or not to disband the coalition. There is only one dispute, and it is over whether or not it is necessary to go to Egypt to engage in a meeting with the Palestinians under the circumstances that have evolved. This is the central issue, a topic that should not be allowed to disappear from our agenda.

['Azran] But there is a delay now. The question is how you evaluate the impact of this delay on the overall process of the initiative.

[Peres] The truth is that I would have preferred no postponement. I would have liked to see the initiative remain in Israel's hands. I certainly fear that the world media might try to control things, and we have no guarantees that Israel would be presented in the light it deserves to be portrayed. Yet since we were unable to reach any other agreement, there is no alternative but to move the issue to the Inner Cabinet for a decision. [end recording]

Likud Ministers Reject Plan

TA1709113589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The Likud ministers who convened after the Cabinet meeting this morning decided to oppose the double Egyptian proposal as presented to Israel last weekend. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Likud ministers object to President Mubarak's 10-point plan because it mentions the principle of territories for peace, among other things. At the same time they reject the proposal of holding negotiations with a Palestinian delegation that would include deportees because they are PLO men, and according to the government guidelines there should be no negotiations with the PLO.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the Likud ministers decided that the only proposal that should be insisted upon is the Cabinet initiative. Any diversion from this line might place Israel in serious danger. The Likud ministers are content with the prime minister's conclusion who said that Israel, on its own initiative, has taken risks and that it has reached its limits. Any step taken beyond that might present a serious threat.

Shamir on Likud, Rabin Stand

TA1709125089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the Likud objects to President Mubarak's 10-point plan, and that this is absolutely clear. Speaking at the Likud ministers meeting today, the prime minister said that the Egyptian proposal contains many obstacles, including the participation of the Arab residents of East Jerusalem in the elections, the principle of territories for peace, a call to halt the settlements, and a suggestion for negotiations with the PLO.

The prime minister said that Defense Minister Rabin's stand surprised him. One day before the forum of four met, Rabin said that only the Cabinet resolution is binding, but he spoke differently in the meeting itself. [passage omitted]

The prime minister concluded the Likud ministers discussion saying that the confrontation with the Alignment should not be made more severe, and added that the Inner Cabinet would convene as soon as all the details concerning the Egyptian proposal are obtained.

Likud Calls Present Situation 'Worst' Crisis

TA1809065489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The Likud is saying that the present crisis with the Alignment over the latest political moves is the worst since the unity government was set up. Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, however, said last night that the government must not be disbanded, although the internal differences must be overcome while simultaneously taking steps for peace. He made the remarks on his arrival this morning in Philadelphia, the first stopover during his U.S. trip.

The Labor Party is currently preparing a campaign aimed at mobilizing Israeli public opinion to accept the political moves. The Labor Party also plans to prepare the public for the possibility of a coalition crisis.

Arens Reacts to Likud Statements

TA1809064089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Einstein] Is this the worst crisis that has threatened the unity government since it was established, as Likud sources are saying?

[Arens] I believe it is still not clear whether there will be a Likud-Alignment crisis, but it is already clear what the issue will be if there is one. The issue will be whether to talk with the PLO or not, whether to stick strictly to the government's guidelines and the State of Israel's peace initiative or whether to deviate from these government resolutions. There is a feeling that there has perhaps been some sort of upheaval in the Alignment and that they want to deviate from the government's guidelines and are ready to talk to the PLO. I hope this is incorrect and that during his Cairo visit, the defense minister will stick closely to the government's resolutions.

[Einstein] What does sticking closely to the government's resolutions mean?

[Arens] That we do not talk with the PLO.

[Einstein] But what are we to accept from the Mubarak initiative?

[Arens] There is no Mubarak initiative; there is the Israeli Government initiative. Mubarak wants to arrange a meeting between a Palestinian representation and an Israeli delegation in order to discuss the fourth point in Israel's peace plan: the elections. Everybody understands that the main issue in such a meeting is whether PLO officials will participate in such a meeting. The Israeli Government's position is unequivocal, and I hope it will also be the position of the defense minister and the entire Alignment.

[Einstein] If there is no change in the government's position, what is the point of holding a meeting between Minister Rabin and President Mubarak?

[Arens] I believe that after the enormous price we paid for the peace accord with Egypt, we do not want to say that we have no interest in meeting with the Egyptian president. On the other hand, in addition to or in view of the meetings between Mubarak and Rabin, the meeting to take place between Mubarak and myself, and the meeting I understand will take place between Mr Peres and Mubarak, the meeting that is most significant is that which is not taking place: the meeting between the Israeli prime minister and the Egyptian president. I believe that only after such a meeting takes place will we know that there is some sort of coordination or close positions between the Governments of Israel and Egypt on the peace process.

[Einstein] Do you believe Mubarak's meeting with Rabin and the meeting you are scheduled to hold with him will pave the road for a meeting with the prime minister?

[Arens] I hope so. The road to such a meeting should not have to be paved; this should be natural. To our regret, however, because of the Egyptian Government's positions, our relations with Egypt are not as natural as we would like them to be.

[Einstein] Minister Arens, what is your reaction to Minister Sharon's remarks on his return home from the United States yesterday. Was there a need to hold an Inner Cabinet debate before the defense minister's trip to Cairo?

[Arens] I believe such a debate would not have hurt, but it was not feasible, because we were told that the defense minister received the invitation at the very last moment. As far as I know—this will, of course, only be clarified on the defense minister's return—it is not the 10 points that are the subject of the discussion. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid called to tell him that Egypt does not consider the 10 points an alternative to our peace initiative. They simply wanted to receive clarifications about our plan to hold elections, and I believe the points are not the topic of the deliberations.

[Einstein] Mr Arens, to sum up, do you believe that President Mubarak will hear the same things from Minister Rabin today and from you during the meeting you will hold toward the end of the month in the United States?

[Arens] I hope so. We are both ministers in the same government, and we are both committed to the government's resolutions and the Israeli Government's peace initiative. I can say with confidence about myself that I will remain loyal to those guidelines and resolutions. I hope that the defense minister will also do so.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and have a good trip.

[Arens] Thank you.

Foreign Minister Rejects Talks With PLO

TA1709195689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen in Jerusalem on 17 September—recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr Foreign Minister, absolute opposition to the notion of an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo was expressed during the Likud ministers' session today. The defense minister, on the other hand, is beginning to get the wheels rolling on such a move. Would it not be a good idea to halt that process?

[Arens] The defense minister was invited by the Egyptian president, and I do not think such a meeting should be blocked. We support and favor close ties with Egypt. Not only that, I met with President Mubarak and will meet with him again in about a week in New York. I view these meetings positively, and I certainly regard Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's efforts to help promote the regional peace process as a positive thing.

[Ronen] Mr Foreign Minister, under what conditions would Israel accept such an Israeli-Palestinian conference in Cairo?

[Arens] I do not think it would be appropriate for me, before we have heard all the specifics involved in President Mubarak's ideas, to present conditions. We will be able to discuss these only after Rabin sees him and after I meet with him. Clearly, of course, the Israeli Government has basic guidelines. It has a political initiative that was endorsed by the Cabinet. Thus, for example, one part of the basic guidelines says that we will not engage in negotiations with the PLO. I presume this is just as clear to President Mubarak.

[Ronen] If President Mubarak suggests including Palestinian exiles in the Palestinian delegation, would you object to that too?

[Arens] I do not think it is necessary to go into such detail at this point. What I presume is clear in Cairo is that we will not talk to the PLO.

Shamir 'Really Worried' About Coalition Future

TA1809072389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] In all the previous crises we got used to sharp verbal attacks from Alignment and Likud leaders. Arrows were fired from the Prime Minister's Office at the vice prime minister's office and vice versa. This time the tones are much softer, but underneath lies a real and deep crisis between the Alignment and the Likud.

The prime minister's close aides say that in contrast to all the previous crises, this time the prime minister is really worried about the continuation of the political process and the government partnership with the Labor Party. The same sources also say that the prime minister believes that there is a limit to the price to be paid even for unity. From Shamir's talks with close aides over the past 24 hours, it appears that the prime minister believes that if the Alignment sticks to President Mubarak's plan, this will lead to a crisis and the dissolution of the government. In Shamir's view, the immediate outcome of the dismantling of the government is new elections, which he believes the Likud has no reason to fear.

The Alignment is less enthusiastic about elections. If the unity government falls apart, it will make an effort to set up a narrow based government. The prime minister does not take seriously the possibility that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres might try to set up a narrow based government under his leadership.

Yitzhaq Shamir's close aides stress the prime minister's deep disappointment with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shamir was taken by surprise by the fact that during the meeting of the forum of four, Rabin's remarks differed from those he made in an earlier meeting with the prime minister after his return from the United States. Shamir aides believe Rabin did not report to the prime minister on all the understandings he reached in his talks in the United States.

Another aspect which the political parties are not ignoring is the upcoming Histadrut elections. The Likud is convinced that if a political crisis is created, it will serve the Likud, which is trying to give a political character to the Histadrut elections.

Are we then facing a crisis which will lead to the dissolution of the government? The key is once again apparently in the hands of the defense minister, and at least a partial answer will be available tonight when he returns from Egypt, after meeting with President Mubarak.

Rabin, Mubarak To Meet in Egypt 'Soon'

TA1709074389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Dan Petreanu, and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been invited for high-level talks with President Mubarak in Egypt. The Cairo meeting, intended to advance the peace process, was decided upon only over the weekend. Rabin and Mubarak are expected to meet soon, it was learned in Tel Aviv last night, although the exact date of the visit has not been finalized.

Sources in Jerusalem disclosed that Vice Premier Peres will also meet with Mubarak during his trip to the United States. The Labour leader begins his talks in the United States today.

Reports of the surprise Cairo talks came as a meeting of the government's "forum of four" top ministers "failed to resolve any of the differences" concerning Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposal to convene Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo, according to one of the ministers who took part.

At the meeting last night in Prime Minister Shamir's Tel Aviv office, Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens maintained their adamant opposition to Mubarak's proposals in their present form, while Peres and Rabin urged their immediate acceptance. The meeting lasted nearly two hours.

The four decided to defer a decision on the matter to the Inner Cabinet, which will convene after Peres and Arens return from their upcoming trips to the United States. (Peres, who was scheduled to depart last night, postponed the trip until today.) The looming coalition crisis was thus postponed till the beginning of next month.

The two parties will maintain contacts on the initiative during the hiatus, sources said last night, but added that

given the level of disagreement manifested at last night's meeting "agreement appears to be near impossible." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 17 September, in a similar report by Cairo-based correspondent Smadar Peri and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 11, adds: "Our political correspondent notes that in the Prime Minister's Office, a profound suspicion is felt toward Minister Rabin's recent moves. According to prominent members of the Prime Minister's Office, in his last visit to the United States, the defense minister, along with the Americans, the Egyptians, and the PLO, lent a hand to the preparation of a well-planned political move."]

At last night's meeting, the positions of the two parties were far apart. Peres and Rabin held that:
—Palestinian willingness to negotiate on the basis of the 10 Egyptian conditions constitutes acceptance in principle of the Israeli initiative.
—Deported Palestinians can be considered legitimate negotiating partners, since they are, technically, residents of the territories.
—Israel cannot reject the Mubarak initiative, which enjoys Washington's enthusiastic support, without creating a new and grave crisis in its relations with both the United States and Egypt, and, at the same time, losing all the advantages reaped from the presentation of the Israeli initiative. Mubarak's proposals constitute a golden opportunity to launch serious negotiations.

Shamir and Arens, on the other hand, maintain that:
—The Palestinians must first accept the government's initiative in full, including its outline of a five-year transitional period.
—The 10 Egyptian points deviate significantly from the government's initiative, and are an attempt to induce Israel into indirect—and subsequently direct—negotiations with the PLO. Israel is being asked to give a blank check on the makeup of the Palestinian delegation, which will be appointed by the PLO.
—Israel cannot negotiate with deported Palestinians, who were expelled because of anti-Israeli activities, since this would represent implicit recognition of the PLO, of the Palestinian diaspora and of the Palestinian right of return.
—Acceptance of Mubarak's initiative would cancel the government's initiative altogether, since the 10 Egyptian conditions contain elements which have nothing to do with the elections. In Cairo, Israel will face Egyptian, American, Palestinian, and Soviet negotiators who are all united behind the Egyptian positions.

Basyuni's presentation of the 10 points to the four ministers constituted the first formal submission of the proposals to the government, and Likud sources maintained that the version submitted on Friday differed from that conveyed informally at the end of June by American Congressman William Gray. One official said he was "astonished" at the changes, and that the new version of the 10 points bears hardly any resemblance to the old one.

The sources noted that:
—The previous version spoke of "security for all states in the region—including Israel." The new version does not mention Israel at all.
—The new version speaks of a withdrawal by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from areas where voting is taking place "during" the elections, while the new version speaks only of withdrawal, and does not contain the previous delineation of a "one kilometer withdrawal." The new version implies an open-ended move by which the IDF will not return to its previous areas of deployment once the elections have taken place.
—Contrary to the previous version, the sources added, the new version makes no mention whatsoever of an interim phase before negotiations on the final status of the territories. It only calls for Israel to agree to a specific date for talks on the final status.

Meanwhile, the debate over the Egyptian plan yesterday caused renewed tension in the Likud, as Industry Minsiter Ari'el Sharon demanded an urgent cabinet debate on the proposal.

Sharon, who is due back from the United States today, will raise his demand in today's cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Rabin's Visit

TA1709103789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] In its meeting this morning the Cabinet approved Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo. The prime minister stressed that there is still no set date for this trip. Minister Rabin, however, asked for it to be approved in principle.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that answering a question by Minister David Levi on whether contacts with residents of the territories are being held concerning the Palestinian delegation that is to meet an Israeli delegation in Cairo, Mr Rabin said that Civil Administration officials have been discussing the 10-point plan, among other things, in their meetings with Palestinian notables. Minister Rabin noted that the Palestinians have been asking for clarifications on Mubarak's 10-point plan.

At the beginning of the cabinet session Minister Mordekhay Gur submitted a query to the prime minister concerning the Egyptian proposal to summon Israeli and Palestinian delegations to discuss the 10 points. The prime minister, however, replied that the Egyptian proposal arrived only on Friday and that there is no need to discuss it in the Cabinet before the Inner Cabinet does so.

After the meeting, the Alignment ministers convened and decided to support the positions of Ministers Peres

and Rabin as presented in last night's meeting of the forum of four, and encouraged them on their upcoming visits to Cairo and Washington.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Likud ministers are now in session in the Prime Minister's Office, where they are discussing Mubarak's 10-point plan.

Visit Scheduled for 18 Sep

TA1709184489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave for Cairo tomorrow on board a Boeing 707 Air Force plane. He will be accompanied by Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt; and Brigadier General Quti Mor, Rabin's aide de camp. He will be greeted at Cairo Airport by Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The defense minister will meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak later in the day and is expected back in Israel tomorrow night.

Egyptian Envoy Comments on Visit

TA1709091989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Ya'el Dan, in English; Dan translates into Hebrew after each question and answer—live]

[Text] [Dan] Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, good morning.

[Basyuni] Good morning to you.

[Dan] Why was Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin invited to Cairo? Will he get any new information there?

[Basyuni] First of all, about this visit I cannot tell you anything. But, as a principle: Egypt is talking with all the ministers of Israel. We already talked with Minister Arens and Minister Shahal, so we are talking with everybody in Israel because to solve the problem you ought to talk with everybody. Of course Mr Rabin is a key in the peace process, so if the meeting does take place, it would be useful to the process.

[Dan] You talk with everybody. You invited Rabin and many other ministers, but you did not invite Prime Minister Shamir.

[Basyuni] This is another story because the prime minister, when there is a summit, everybody in the world is expecting fruits of the meeting. [sentence as heard] So if there is something new Mr Shamir will be invited with a warm welcome, if there is something new. As I told you, to discuss with ministers nobody expects results, but in a summit, this is something else, and everybody is waiting to see what is the result of the talks.

[Dan] As far as we know at this moment, the PLO has not accepted the plan. Can you tell us anything new about how 'Arafat or the PLO see Mubarak's initiative?

[Basyuni] I would like to start and tell you that the Egyptian 10 points are not an alternative to the elections plan, but are an attempt for clarification. What are we doing? We present our initiative, and we now ask Israel to respond. After that we will ask all the parties concerned. So, we hope that first of all we would receive the Israeli support and understanding to promote the peace process which we are trying to pursue, and start it as soon as possible. Now the ball is on the Israeli side. If you agree, next month you will see an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation meet in Cairo to discuss and talk about the peace process. Can you imagine: Next month the wheels of peace will start moving. So we would like, and we hope, that we will receive the Israeli support for our initiative.

[Dan] Did you get 'Arafat's support?

[Basyuni] Leave this to Egypt. Now we are asking you to respond to our initiative. We would like to hear from you and we [corrects himself] I am sure that we will see next month an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

[Dan] What is Egypt's list of names of the Palestinians who would be in this meeting?

[Basyuni] Egypt will present the list, and Egypt has every right to consult with whom it wants to consult with to select the Palestinian delegation.

[Dan] Is there a list already?

[Basyuni] After Israel agrees to the idea, everything will be ready. Again, I will repeat it: It is a golden chance to meet next month!

[Dan] Mr Basyuni, what would happen if Israel rejects the Mubarak initiative?

[Basyuni] I think it is a golden chance. I am afraid that if we miss this opportunity, the new generation will not forgive us, and will give the chance to the radical people and extreme people to manage the situation, and the violence will be escalated, God forbid.

[Dan] Mr Basyuni, thank you very much.

[Basyuni] Thank you.

IDF Scout Hurt by Gunshots Fired From Jordan

TA1609081589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Another incident occurred along the Jordanian Border. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained slight injuries early this morning when shots were directed at an IDF patrol moving east of the defense fence in the Ashdot Ya'aqov area. The troops on the patrol returned fire. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that later searches uncovered several

M-16 magazines. Military movement and intense activity were noticed across the border.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the sniper emptied one magazine. An army flak jacket with the Jordanian Legion insignia was found with the magazines.

The soldier injured from our side is the scout that led the patrol. He was injured all over his body from pieces of rock. He was first transferred to Poriya Hospital and later to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The IDF soldiers combed the area, fired their weapons, and hurled grenades at the bushes across the river. Jordanian soldiers observed them from the other side.

Soldiers Hurt in Incident

TA1609121789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Another incident took place along the Jordanian border this morning. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] scout and another soldier sustained slight injuries from rock shrapnel when an unidentified person—apparently a Jordanian soldier—directed fire from the bushes east of the Jordan River at an IDF patrol moving in the Ashdot Ya'aqov area. The injured scout was hospitalized at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, while the other soldier was treated in the local clinic.

In the course of the incident, footprints leading to and from the Jordan River were found, but our correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that the defense fence was not crossed. Magazines from an M-16 rifle were also found. The IDF soldiers fired bullets and grenades at the bushes east of the river as the Jordanian Army soldiers looked on.

Jordanian Army soldiers have for the past week been engaged in extensive engineering and construction activity in the Jordan Rift Valley opposite Kefar Ruppin, in the area where a terrorist shot at two IDF soldiers 2 weeks ago. The Jordanians cleared the foliage that served as the hiding place for the terrorist, set up a new observation post, and broke a new patrol route.

Jordan Clearing Foliage, Repairing Road on Border

JN1709061689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Jordanian Army forces have, since the early hours of the morning, been carrying out large-scale engineering works along the Israeli-Jordanian borders where saboteurs tried to infiltrate into Israel three times.

Our correspondent in the north reports that heavy tractors have been seen repairing the road and clearing the thick foliage behind which the saboteurs took cover.

Military sources told our correspondent that the engineering work carried out by the Jordanian Army is more or less an indication to Israel that Jordan is exerting a special effort to prevent acts of sabotage from its territory.

SLA To Issue Car Plates in Security Zone

TA1509061689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] says it will issue car number plates in the security zone. The move is aimed at monitoring more closely traffic in the area in an attempt to cut down on suicide car-bomb attacks. The vehicles used in such attacks had official Lebanese plates. An SLA spokesman said some 15,000 new plates will be issued.

Mordekhay Holds Meeting With Hebron Notables

TA1409120789 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Sep 89 p 3

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Ayelet Mazor, and the military correspondent]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, held his first meeting with Arab notables from Hebron since entering office. He met with 50 notables, including former Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, who is identified with the mainstream PLO; Dr Hafiz al-Natshah, who is the person in charge of educational affairs in the Hebron area; Muhammad Rashad al-Ja'bari; and the mayors of Halhul, Yattah, and Dura.

The general and the notables discussed ways to ease daily life in the region. The locals asked him to reopen the schools that were closed following disturbances. The commander of the Central Command acceded to the request of Muhammad Rashad al-Ja'bari and ordered the reopening of two Halhul high schools, one for boys and one for girls, which had been closed recently due to student riots. Yesterday the general was also the guest of Ron Shachner, the head of the Hebron Hills local council. Shachner reviewed the situation in the Jewish settlements in the region. [passage omitted]

Plan Submitted for Establishment of Settlements

TA1409115389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Le'a Levavi]

[Text] The Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District has submitted a programme to the prime minister calling for the establishment of 10 new settlements, eight of them in the coming year.

Uri Ari'el, director-general of the council, explained that five of the eight settlements agreed upon in the coalition agreement for this year have already been established (plus two more private-enterprise settlements not covered by the agreement and not requiring government funds) and the remaining three settlements are on their way to being established. Now, the council is eager to get a new government agreement for the coming year.

"We know the Labour Party will object but we see no reason why an agreement can't be reached as it was last year after bickering about where the settlements will be located."

The council's programme for the new building programme next year calls for five settlements in Samaria, two in Gaza, two in the Hebron Hills area and one in the Binyamin District.

Ari'el said each settlement would cost an average of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2 million but money shouldn't be a problem. "All the talk about budget cuts is a bluff. They find plenty of money for Koor [large Histadrut concern in serious financial difficulties], the kibbutzim and other things; they can find money for settlements, too," he argued.

Finding people to live in the new settlements also will not be a problem, he said. There are already gar'inim (settlement groups) for all 10 proposed settlements, with about 20 families in each group. "The population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has increased by 10 percent in the past year (it now stands at a little over 80,000) despite terrorism, the economic situation and the political situation, which proves settlement is what the people want," Ari'el said.

IDF Officer on Guidelines To Open Fire

TA1409172689 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Interview with Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] We are dealing with a new guideline to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who are now permitted to fire at masked men—even if they are unarmed—who refuse to halt. We are going to address this issue with Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip. Good evening.

[Poleg] Good evening.

[Margalit] What is the meaning of the latest guideline, what exactly does it determine, and what does it permit?

[Poleg] The new order enables IDF soldiers to open fire—according to the regulation on stopping a suspect—at those wearing masks who use violence against civilians and impose terror and fear on the population. The order also goes into the specifics: It says that if an IDF unit encounters such a group, which does not heed the call to stop, the guideline on halting a suspect will be used. This means first firing into the air, then calling on it to halt, and thirdly firing in the direction of the lower limbs.

[Margalit] When referring to those employing terror against the local population, does that for instance include masked men who want to take away the magnetic ID's?

[Poleg] Yes. It deals first of all with internal terror. That is, those carrying out murders, beatings, and terrorizing those waiting to leave for work in Israel, as well as other terrorist activities, such as collecting funds from some of those working in Israel.

[Margalit] Was there a need for the additional guideline, which is stricter, because the existing guidelines were insufficient?

[Poleg] My opinion from the field is that there was a need for this addition in order to enable us, the troops responsible for law and order and field security, to provide additional means for assuring security for the local inhabitants.

[Margalit] Does that mean that up to now unarmed masked men, who instill terror in the local population, and in an encounter with IDF troops refused to heed a call to halt, could not be fired at?

[Poleg] No. If there was a physical encounter with them, it is clear that the guideline on stopping a suspect could be implemented. But against the other groups and the way they operate, I believe this new guideline provides a better opportunity for the soldiers to deal with the problem.

[Margalit] Does it also stem perhaps from the fact that the phenomenon of masked men has increased in recent weeks?

[Poleg] There are two types of masked men, which is something I would like to clarify. There are masked men who lead local disturbances by children, etc. The order is not aimed at that population.

[Margalit] That means, that fire is not to be opened at them?

[Poleg] Fire would not be opened according to the guideline we are currently discussing. Fire is opened only against masked men who deal with violent activity against locals and impose terror.

[Margalit] Perhaps I should ask you the same question slightly differently. Does the new guideline mean that violence by masked men has increased?

[Poleg] The new guideline means that there is at present a phenomenon of masked men who are carrying out acts such as I mentioned before, and action must be taken against them. I would like to add one more sentence. It must be made clear that a group disguising itself with some sort of mask is a priori planning certain activity, which is usually an extraordinary or violent activity. The order is meant for these people.

[Margalit] In fact, since the guidelines enabling opening fire against masked men was issued it appears that, as you just said, a person wearing a mask is automatically suspect.

[Poleg] Certainly, because the moment he wears a mask there is a reason for that and he becomes suspect because it is clear that he is about to carry out an action for which the mask provides a cover.

[Margalit] But there were those who wore masks and did not...

[Poleg, interrupting] That is why I differentiated before between two groups. The guideline is not meant to be used against those dealing with disturbances or leading disturbances. It is aimed against those imposing terror—and we observe it in the field; I operate in the field and see their behavior—those who beat and kill, and use other violent activity.

[Margalit] I put the question to you for the third time. Does that mean that the guideline was issued because the number of murders against collaborators, or those for whom the masked men are IDF collaborators, has grown?

[Poleg] It is also meant to be used against murderers. By the way, most are not collaborators, most are locals who for some reason are murdered by masked men. It is meant for them, perhaps for the reasons you gave.

[Margalit] Thank you Gen Poleg

[Poleg] Thank you.

Mercenary Colonel Seeks To Testify in Washington

TA1509193789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Reserves Lieutenant Colonel Ya'ir Klein, one of the directors of the Hod Hahanit [Spearhead] Company, would like to go to the United States to testify about the military training given to civilians in Colombia. Klein was responding to an invitation by Steven Melvin, a member of the Senate subcommittee that is investigating drug smuggling into the United States.

Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that Klein told his attorney to ask the police to issue the necessary permits enabling him to depart for the United States.

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Visits Amman

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1609131189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Amman this morning on an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During this visit he will deliver a written message from the Chinese leadership to His Majesty King Husayn.

Qian praised His Majesty King Husayn's leadership and the important Jordanian role in Middle East issues.

In a statement to the press upon arrival, Qian said: We in China are following with considerable interest the role of his majesty and the Jordanian Government to boost the peace efforts in the region and achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. This is because such a solution serves the causes of world security and peace. He added: Jordan has played this role in the past, and we are confident it will continue to play it in the future.

The PRC foreign minister lauded bilateral relations by noting that the friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries have been continuously consolidated by virtue of the personal attention devoted by the two countries' leaderships.

Qian expressed his happiness over visiting Jordan on the invitation of Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, since this visit will give him an opportunity to meet with Jordanian officials and confer with them on means to bolster peace efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis. He indicated his country's readiness, as a UN Security Council permanent member, to exert every possible effort to realize a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

In this regard, he praised the positive stands of the Arab states and the PLO on the Middle East crisis, saying that what is required now is a similar positive stand by Israel so that the peace process can be launched. Qian expressed his country's support for convening an international peace conference with the participation of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council along with the parties directly involved in the conflict to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis—a solution that will secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The PRC foreign minister explained that during his visit to Jordan, he will meet with a number of Jordanian officials in various sectors to discuss ways to bolster and develop bilateral cooperation in the agricultural, industrial, commercial, and economic fields, pointing to the existence of various possibilities of cooperation in these fields.

He was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a number of Foreign Ministry senior officials, the Jordanian ambassador to the PRC, and the PRC charge d'affairs in Amman. Qian's visit to Jordan comes within the framework of a tour to the region that includes stops in Syria, Egypt, and Tunisia.

Holds Talks With al-Qasim

JN1609193289 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr Marwan al-Qasim, and the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, co-chaired a meeting at the Foreign Ministry this evening to discuss regional developments.

The two sides' discussions focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, Lebanon, and the situation in the Gulf. They agreed that the political solution to the Middle East problem was the only option to bring about a just and comprehensive solution based on a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people. Such a settlement, they said, could only be gained through an international peace conference. The two sides voiced their support of the PLO peace-oriented attitude and criticized Israel's intransigence.

The Chinese minister expressed his country's backing for the three-man Arab committee on Lebanon and voiced satisfaction over the resumption of its mediation role.

The Jordanian and Chinese officials said they hoped a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran will be transformed into a durable peace and that the two countries would resume direct peace talks.

Received by King

JN1709160789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and the delegation accompanying him. The minister conveyed the greetings of the Chinese leadership to his majesty and the Jordanian people, and its appreciation of the effective role played by Jordan to achieve peace in the region.

He also conveyed a written message from the Chinese president containing an invitation to His Majesty King Husayn to visit the PRC. His majesty accepted this kind invitation and promised to take it up at an appropriate time.

Relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote and entrench them were reviewed during the meeting. Views were also exchanged on issues of concern to the region, most outstanding of which are the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the prevailing deadlock between Iraq and Iran and the need to reach a final solution through direct negotiations to achieve a lasting peace.

The audience was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Chinese ambssador to Amman.

Israeli Fire Slightly Wounds Patrol Member

JN1609152189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1504 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—A military spokesman has stated the following: At 0445 today, 16 September 1989, a member of our forward patrol in the al-Majami' Bridge area in the northern Jordan Valley noticed unusual movement on the edge of the River Jordan and fired in its direction. Apparently, Israeli patrols on the other side of the river opened fire in the same direction, slightly wounding one of our members.

Chlorine Gas Leak Injures 170 in al-Zarqa'

King Visits Site

JN1709135789 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] His majesty the king has made an inspection tour of the city of al-Zarqa', where 170 people were injured when a chemical plant spewed out clouds of poison gas yesterday.

His majesty visited hospitals where the injured were treated. He thanked Civil Defense personnel and members of the Public Security Department and the Armed Forces who were able to bring the situation under control and evacuate the injured.

His majesty was accompanied on the tour, which began last night to this morning, by the Royal Court chief and the director general of the National Medical Institution.

Leak Blamed on 'Negligence'

JN1809092889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 89 p 3

[By Suhayr M. 'Ubaydat, JORDAN TIMES reporter]

[Text] Al-Zarqa—Investigations have revealed that negligence was the cause of a leak of poisonous chlorine gas from a chemical plant which affected at least 129 people in the al-Zarqa area Saturday [16 September] , al-Zarqa Prosecutor General Ahmad al-Khatib said Sunday.

According to first reports which came from al-Zarqa police, the leak started Saturday at 9:30 p.m., and the Civil Defence and Public Security departments as well as the Armed Forces rushed to the scene of the accident, and began taking measures to contain the leak.

Civil Defence Department Director-General Khalid al-Tarawinah said that an area of three square kilometres around the factory was evacuated to avoid further injuries.

The situation was brought under control soon after the incident, and most of those affected were admitted to hospitals in the area. According to health officials and hospital staff, there were no serious cases, only mild ones, and almost all patients were discharged early Sunday.

His Majesty King Husayn rushed to the area late Saturday and visited the hospitals. The King stayed throughout the night in the area, according to one of the workers discharged Saturday.

The King has ordered immediate inspection of similar plants in the Kingdom to insure that all of them are abiding by safety regulations in coordination with the Health Ministry and the Civil Defence Department.

The occupational health section in the Department of Environment sent three specialists to the factory Sunday to inspect the scene of the accident.

"We found out that the leak started at 8 p.m. and it was not until 3:30 a.m. Sunday that it was brought under complete control," Dr. Yusuf 'Abdallat told the JORDAN TIMES.

According to 'Abdallat, the factory did not implement public safety measures of providing workers with masks and protective devices. "We found only one mask and an oxygen container for first aid emergencies, which is considered a violation of public security measures implemented by our department," he said.

Chemical experts said that the chloride [as published] gas is poisonous and if a person is brought into immediate contact with it, it causes difficulty in breathing, nausiation, headache and dizziness.

Upon concluding his investigations, the prosecutor general announced that "the leak was caused by negligence," but refused to give more details on the case.

According to official sources, the plant has always been facing trouble of not abiding to regulations. It has been shut down for maintenance and for the permanent closure of a section that used to deal with mercury.

"It is very difficult to get rid of mercury because of the extensive damaging effect it has on the environment. So the management of the plant was requested to close down that particular section and eventually it did," an official said.

The Jordan Chemical Industries Company plant produces chloride, part of which is used to manufacture detergents in the same plant, and the rest is distributed to other organisations that need the product.

According to 'Abdallat, there should be strict regulations concerning safety measures, because in such factories, the possibility of similar accidents remains very high.

The plant is located in the centre of a heavily populated area full of factories that are haphazardly located close to each other. Therefore, the area is prone to risks of major industrial accidents.

King Receives Egypt's Al-Baz, Mubarak Message

JN1709153689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Al-Baz conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, concerning the developments on the Arab scene, especially those related to the Palestine question and the Lebanese situation. The message also explains all issues related to the latest 10-point Egyptian plan and the outcome of discussions with all concerned parties.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Court and his majesty's political adviser.

Dr al-Baz arrived in Amman at noon today.

Prime Minister Returns From ACC Conference

JN1709203189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has returned to Amman after leading Jordan's delegation to the second meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council. In a statement to PETRA, the prime minister said the meeting, which concluded in the Iraqi capital this evening, was useful and produced numerous agreements and decisions that should boost joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim Reviews Position on Territories Plan

JN1809080889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Sep 89 p 10

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has affirmed that the Egyptian proposals on elections in the occupied Arab territories constitute one of the factors that will lead to a just and comprehensive solution. He added that the 10 points presented by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak give credibility and seriousness to the principle of holding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

He said: Egyptian President Mubarak's presentation of the 10 points is an attempt to examine Israel's intentions, seriousness, and desire to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Also, these points tackle the issue with regard to a number of topics which, if finalized, will lead to a just and comprehensive solution. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y yesterday, al-Qasim added that the Egyptian proposal is not a visualization of a comprehensive solution, but a starting point to give credibility and seriousness to the principle of holding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

The foreign minister believes that the Egyptian proposal is a step down the road to a comprehensive solution. He said: Israel must respond to the general principle of elections, because, through elections, the Palestinian people will exercise their legitimate political rights, and because this step is associated with other steps that would achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Qasim insisted on the need to know the Israeli intentions vis-a-vis Egypt's 10 points before the PLO takes the issue into consideration. He said: If the Israeli side presents sufficient guarantees that will allow the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territory the right to elections—as they are part of self-determination—and if the Israeli side guarantees the results of free and fair elections under international supervision, the PLO should take into consideration the Egyptian proposal so that the dialogue, which will discuss the the issue of elections, will be between the Palestinian side, representing the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory, and the Israeli side.

On the Jordanian stand concerning the elections in the occupied Arab territory, al-Qasim said that Jordan supports any stand which the PLO considers appropriate. He added: Jordan supports what the PLO believes to be in its interest and in the interest of the Palestinian people and their rights. The most important thing is the convening of an international conference that would resolve the conflict because there are other countries that are involved in it and whose territories are occupied.

Marwan al-Qasim added: The Arab stand has become complete, united, and identical—that is, the comprehensive solution should be achieved through negotiations at an international conference with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and concerned parties, including the PLO.

Asked about the contents of the talks that were held in Amman recently between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides during the visit to Amman by President Yasir 'Arafat, the foreign minister noted that Jordan supports the PLO proposals and stands.

Regarding the nature of these proposals and stands Al-Qasim said: During their meetings in Amman, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides discussed the PLO's stand on specific issues. The PLO explained some proposals of its own which Jordan supports. With respect to the elections issue, the PLO's stand in support of the principle of holding elections has been made clear since the Casablanca summit, not to mention its explicit conditions concerning the need for guarantees and protection, whether for the Palestinian candidate or the

Palestinian voter. Its conditions also include the stipulations that the two sides should accept the results of these elections, that guarantees should be provided by influential countries through international observers, and that methods of violence or terrorism that have been witnessed by the occupied Arab territories over the past many months should not be used.

Al-Qasim went on to say that the 10 points put forth by Egyptian President Mubarak will contribute to the enhancement of possibilities and guarantees through which the Palestinians could positively view the intended election concept. This is not what Shamir wants because he seeks to obstruct the peace process in the region.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Al-Qasim said that things have changed since the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the initiation of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank. Matters have been completely clarified with respect to the PLO's representation at the international conference with an independent delegation.

On whether the disengagement decision was discussed between Jordan and the PLO, Al-Qasim affirmed that the disengagement decision is a principled and strategic decision which has reflected positively on the PLO stand, has further enhanced confidence, and has dotted the i's with respect to the dealings between the two sides.

Al-Qasim added: The Jordanian decision to disengage legal and administrative links with the West Bank has had an important impact on the Palestinian approach to attain Palestinian rights and interests through the positive stand adopted by the Palestinian command. This positive stand, in turn, has eliminated all the obstacles that were present during the Kissinger era, and forced the United States to initiate a dialogue with the PLO.

On the other hand, the foreign minister said that during Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Amman the issue of sending an Arab peacekeeping force to Lebanon was discussed. He denied that Jordan is undertaking a mediation role with Iraq. He affirmed that in the report submitted by the Arab tripartite committee to the kings and presidents some 2 weeks ago, Iraq had pledged not to send any assistance that might complicate the committee's work. The committee's report clearly stated that Iraq had responded to its demands. The report also stated that the security committee was carrying out its task of monitoring the crossing points and preventing any provisions or materiel that might obstruct the process of accord, and was working to reopen the airport.

On Jordan's role in the Lebanese crisis, al-Qasim said: The Jordanian stand on the Lebanese crisis stems from our eagerness to save Lebanon—an Arab League founding state—and to help Syria leave the Lebanese quagmire. We are also interested in stabilizing Lebanon, a country whose stability, or lack of it, positively or negatively affects Jordan. He added that Jordan is not a mediator and its role is an indivisible part of the Casablanca summit resolution. He said the tripartite committee represents all the Arab countries in their endeavor to find an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. An Arab solution is the only solution to guarantee Lebanon's Arabism and independence. He explained that Jordan clearly supports all that is considered appropriate by the tripartite committee to provide an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis and to unify the Arab stand, which will produce a new state of affairs that will lead to the pullout of Iran and Israel from Lebanon, after which normalcy will return to that country.

On whether the Syrian foreign minister raised new conditions for the resumption of the tripartite committee's activity during his visit to Amman, al-Qasim said: The Syrian foreign minister explained, while in Amman, the Syrian viewpoint on the suspension of the committee's activity. He said that the committee should have held a final review with Syria before suspending its work in order to remove doubts about the Syrian position and to affirm that Syria wants an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Qasim described the recent summit meeting in Tripoli which comprised Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II as a positive meeting which contributed toward removing some obstacles before the committee's work. He said stands were further clarified during the Tripoli summit meetings and there had been a collective effort to overcome some obstacles faced by the committee. Because of this positive meeting, tension eased and it was reaffirmed that only an Arab solution is possible. He said that at the Nonaligned Movement summit, Jordan welcomed the committee's decision to resume its mission to reach the aspired objective.

Al-Qasim added: A new stage marked by the resumption of the tripartite committee's work is ahead of us. We hope that everyone will cooperate to boost the committee's efforts because, first and foremost, the committee wants an Arab solution for Lebanon.

On His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's recent visit to the United States, during which he met with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, al-Qasim explained that during their meetings with U.S. officials, the crown prince and his delegation explained the Jordanian stand supporting the Palestinian position and effort in solving the Palestine question. He said: The Jordanian side affirmed its stand supporting the PLO. It also called for resolving the Palestine question through negotiations within an international conference based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace.

He said: Prince Hasan explained the Jordanian stand, which questions the reason for elections in the occupied territories while the Palestinians there are represented by

the PLO. The crown prince explained that Jordan supports the PLO's nonobjection to elections in the occupied Arab territories as long as there are clear signs about preparation for an international conference to discuss the issue of elections. This conference should feature direct negotiations that, on one hand, include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, and the Israeli Government on the other. These elections must be part of a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

Al-Nabulsi on Exchange Rate, Financial Policy

JN1609172489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Tunis—Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has confirmed his confidence that the integrated reform plan adopted by the Jordanian Government in monetary and financial policy will result in a radical and prompt solution to the foreign indebtedness problem. Al-Nabulsi also believes the plan will restore monetary stability in the country and prove to be the cornerstone of Jordan's efforts to restore confidence in the national economy and give momentum to economic development.

During a meeting with a group of pressmen and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies in Tunis today, he explained that all the measures taken by the government—whether those related to financial and monetary policies, increasing exports, and reducing expenditure, or those related to monetary stability—have so far proceeded in an integrated manner that ushers in good news. He pointed out that the swift endeavors made by the government, the financial assistance received from the Arab brothers, and the series of internal measures have reached an advanced stage that will help restore monetary stability and rebuild foreign currency reserves. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Nabulsi explained that the exchange rate is now under control and that the measures which determine two rates of exchange for the Jordanian monetary unit are temporary measures. He asserted that if things continue on the same course, the two rates of exchange will return to a single rate before the end of this year. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Nabulsi praised the clear and concentrated Arab efforts to support Jordan. He pointed out that fraternal Saudi Arabia has thankfully provided a grant of $200 million to Jordan. He also denied reports made by the media on the Saudi deposit [of $1 billion in the CBJ].

Answering a question concerning the connection between Jordan's decision to disengage its relationship with the occupied West Bank with the reduction in the expatriates' transfers, he said: The financial crisis started before that decision and was engendered by the financial crisis witnessed by all Arab states following the decline in oil revenues and other political influences prevailing in the region. He asserted that there is no single and direct causal connection between the economic crisis in Jordan and the issue of disengagement

The meeting with the press, which took place at the Jordanian Embassy in Tunis, was attended by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, and embassy staff.

Arab Tripartite Committee Calls for Cease-Fire

NC1609150589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The cease-fire called for by the Arab tripartite committee this afternoon lasted less than 3 hours. Fierce clashes involving artillery and rocket fire have been raging along the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat line on the mountain since 1645. The sound of machinegun fire is also being heard intermittently along the Science College-al-Hadath line. Antitank fire is reaching as far as al-Hazimiyah and al-Hadath. Sporadic sniping is also reported along the lines in the commercial area.

The Arab tripartite committee announced this afternoon that it will officially resume its mission in Lebanon under a comprehensive political and security plan.

A source close to General Michel 'Awn prefers to wait for concrete results. The source said: We have to wait for the arrival of Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to learn what he has to say, particularly since he has been appointed chairman of the Lebanese security committee.

Cease-Fire To Be Effective at Midnight

NC1609171689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] According to security sources, the cease-fire takes effect at midnight tonight.

In the meantime, violent clashes have been taking place on the combat lines in the Southern Suburb, commercial markets, Ra's al- Nab', and Primo since 1715.

The same sources expect a limited deterioration in the situation before the cease-fire, called for by the higher Arab committee in the statement it issued this afternoon, is implemented.

'Awn Rejects Monitoring Committee

NC1709204689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has refused to accept an inter-Lebanese committee to monitor the cease-fire in Lebanon. He affirmed that he will not have a representative on such a committee unless the Syrians also have one.

In a television interview this evening, Gen 'Awn maintained that the question of inviting the Chamber of Deputies to meet at the end of this month is a trap, because no reform can take place under occupation. He described the calls to prevent arms from reaching the Lebanese Army as a trick.

Gen 'Awn said that the Arabs have good intentions regarding the Lebanese situation, but they are making a mistake. They talk about guarantees, and then they forget their own guarantees. [passage omitted]

'Awn on 'International Conspiracy,' Other Issues

NC1709213089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has affirmed that a strong Lebanon will exist under the following conditions: the ability to make its own decisions, taking into consideration its own interests and regional and international developments; a viable administrative, defense, and social system; and some modernization of the state and its functions, with a sound relationship between the state and the citizen and among the state institutions.

Gen 'Awn said: We have demonstrated that the war is not a civil war. We have restored respect to the Lebanese people, drawn the attention of the world to those who produce and market drugs, and pinpointed to the world the location of the terrorist camps and the hostages which have been kidnapped with the approval and protection of the Syrian regime. The Lebanese conflict is an international conspiracy aimed at delivering Lebanon as a conciliation prize.

In an interview this evening, Gen 'Awn added: At present, there is an international conspiracy, particularly on the part of the United States which is trying to cover up the Syrian role. Syria is using the other party as a shield and a front. In all wars there are always agents working for the occupation forces, but the victory in the battle has always gone to the resisters.

He said that he has been heading a transitional government until authority is established and a president is elected, adding: However, the Syrians promoted the creation of the so-called government in the other sector. Consequently, we reacted to developments. We continued to exercise our legitimate authority on the basis of the Constitution to ensure constitutional continuity.

Gen 'Awn affirmed that forms of government and the process of liberation stem from the people. He also said that 99 percent of the Lebanese have not engaged in sectarian conflict. Small terrorist groups had been formed and had inflicted casualties in the name of sectarianism. Terrorist methods were used. The media have played a negative role since 1975. He referred to the Palestinian groups which came across the Syrian border and joined forces with a local group, which lead to an outbreak of violence.

Gen 'Awn explained that the disintegration of the Army at the onset of the war was due to political defects and division and not to faults in the Army's discipline or structure. He affirmed that the Army in all areas of Lebanon is now Lebanese and shares the same objectives. It is best equipped to establish security as long as it has no regional or international connections. By establishing security, it can maintain coexistence and defend national interaction on every level, from the level of dialogue to the political, economic, and social levels.

Answering a question about what would happen to the militias if the idea of greater Beirut materializes, Gen 'Awn said: The idea of greater Beirut is not on the agenda. The ultimate goal of the militias is to become an Army. We are ready to proceed with integration if they wish. We are also ready to assume responsibility for their gradual reintegration into civilian life.

Asked about his reform plan, Gen 'Awn said: I want reforms to be comprehensive. These reforms must focus on the Lebanese citizen. We need to create a new political convention and reach an understanding about its meaning. The political convention should be identified with sovereignty. We cannot begin reforms without first agreeing on the meaning of each term. Equality, for example, has come to mean giving everyone the same thing without considering qualifications. We must write the charter for the rights of the Lebanese people, their right to freedom and to work and live in a proper environment. This should form the basis of a new constitution. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Welcomes Arab Committee Statement

NC1609163989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Commenting on the Arab committee's statement, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said today:

We are pleased to welcome the Arab committee's statement and express our full support for all its contents. We stress our readiness to cooperate with the noble committee to implement the contents of the statement faithfully and thoroughly. We hope that the points which the noble Arab committee announced today will usher in Lebanon's final deliverance from the whirlpool of violence and the restoration of security, peace, and stability on firm conciliatory grounds.

While expressing our deep appreciation for the efforts and achievements of the noble Arab committee, we address ourselves to all Lebanese and appeal to them to extend their hands and open their hearts and sincerely and fully cooperate with the Arab committee to carry out the steps it has outlined to save Lebanon from the furnace of its destructive crisis.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We have a unique opportunity which might not recur. It must not be wasted or squandered.

Arab Committee Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives in Beirut

NC1709170089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut at 1500 today. Although no information is yet available about his schedule, it is known that he will meet with a number of political leaders, including Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Dr Salim al-Huss. Gen 'Awn's sources told us a few minutes ago that Gen 'Awn has not yet received any communication in this regard.

Meets al-Huss, Birri

NC1709200589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss hosted a dinner in honor of Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi in his home at 2130.

After meeting with Nabih Birri at around 2000, envoy Ibrahimi said: We will resume our consultations. Asked about the date when the observers committee will be announced, Ibrahimi said: I will talk to you about this issue after completing my tour.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said: We discussed the provisions of the resolutions issued by the tripartite committee, particularly those relating to the issue of the observers who will include an officer from Brigadier General al-Khatib's command and Arab observers. Asked whether they will include Algerian officers, he answered: Yes, this matter is left to the committee's chairman. Birri reiterated his demand that political sectarianism be abolished.

Terms Talks with 'Awn 'Positive'

NC1809111189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, emissary of the Arab tripartite committee, conferred with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn between 1100 and 1200 today. Following the meeting, Ibrahimi described the meeting as positive and useful, but he declined to comment on whether he conveyed any Arab guarantees to the prime minister concerning the statement issued by the committee. Here is a recording of Ibrahimi's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Ibrahimi] I have only one thing to say. My talks with General 'Awn were useful and positive, and we discussed the implementation of the Arab committee's decision. Consultations with other parties are continuing, and I hope to meet the general again tomorrow.

[Unidentified reporter] Did you convey any Arab guarantees to the prime minister concerning certain issues?

[Ibrahimi] I have no comment. We will meet again tomorrow. I do not answer any questions. [last two sentences in English]

[Unidentified reporter] Just one clarification is needed. In the committee's statement there was a sentence saying that thanks are due the Syrian forces for helping Lebanon. We want a clarification, Mr Ambassador; for what do we thank the Syrians? For the innocent victims in Lebanon?

[Ibrahimi] I will not answer any provocative questions. I will see you tomorrow, God willing. [end recording]

As you have heard, Lakhdar Ibrahimi declined to answer journalists' questions. We have learned that he left B'abda Palace for the Foreign Ministry to meet with the ministry's Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam'. He is also scheduled to meet with the Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' and with the Lebanese Front Leader Deputy George Sa'adah. He will also visit Patriarch Sfayr. And, as you heard, he will return tomorrow to B'abda Palace for another meeting with the prime minister.

Meets al-Huss, al-Husayni

NC1809174089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has been much on the move today but he has said little. He stopped at several places in the eastern area before going to West Beirut, where he met with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss at 1830 and later with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. The Arab envoy expressed optimism about the implementation of the provisions of the Arab committee's resolution. After his 1-hour meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss, Ibrahimi said: Be patient for 2 or 3 days until we have completed our consultations. He added: We are at a very delicate stage and we have high hopes. The discussions have been good and we are optimistic.

Ibrahimi had earlier met separately in the eastern area with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam', Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. His mission in the eastern area has not yet been completed. He is expected to return tomorrow and meet again with General 'Awn and then with Phalangist leader Dr George Sa'adah.

What are the results of the meetings so far? The Arab envoy made brief statements which concentrated on the implementation of the Arab committee's resolution and pointed to the positive results of the meetings, which will be continued. Ibrahimi said he did not wish to answer what he described as provocative questions which dealt mostly with the Syrian attitude. He also declined to answer reporters' questions regarding the Arab guarantees for Lebanon.[passage omitted]

Quoting sources close to Gen 'Awn, REUTER says that 'Awn has demanded written Arab guarantees that Syria will withdraw its forces from Lebanon and that he has asked for clarification regarding the proposed Arab League peace plan.

U.S., Syria Hold Talks on Hostages' Release

NC1609145589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The U.S CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reports that Syria is holding talks with the United States in Damascus, on behalf of Hizballah and Iran, to release the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

The paper cites Lebanese sources close to Iran as saying that the contacts which are being held with Shiite circles may result in the hostages' release in early November.

Syria Reportedly Receives Soviet Missiles

NC1509150489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS said today that Syria has recently acquired very sophisticated Soviet missiles. Citing what it described as informed East European sources in Beirut, the paper said that Marshal Mikhalikin, commander in chief of the Soviet infantry and missiles [name and title as heard], who visited Syria last week, brought with him a batch of very sophisticated missiles.

This particular type of missile had repeatedly been requested by the Syrians during a visit to Damascus by Soviet Minister of Defense Dmitriy Yazov last March.

Saudi Source on Syrian Guarantees on Withdrawal

NC1809075389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] A Saudi clarification of some of the provisions of the tripartite Arab committee's statement has emerged. It is an important one and worth pondering as it noted that Syria has finally agreed to give firm and final guarantees on organizing the presidential elections and withdrawing its forces from Lebanon.

The Saudi source has told AFP that the coming 2 weeks will test the real intentions of all the parties in the Lebanese arena and that the Arab committee will not hesitate to name the party that impedes its work. The source said that no presidential elections will be held without introducing changes to the Lebanese political system and that there will be no reforms without guarantees on the Syrian withdrawal.

The Saudi source added: The committee has never in fact stopped its work, as it has not ceased contacting the influential forces in Lebanon, particularly Syria, which in the end has agreed to give firm and final guarantees on organizing the presidential elections and withdrawing its forces from Lebanon. The source also said that the committee has also received firm guarantees from the United States, the Soviet Union, and France, which promised to participate effectively to ensure the success of the committee's plan.

[Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 18 September carries a report on the "Saudi source's" comments to AFP and says, "The Saudi source noted that the Chamber of Deputies' approval of this draft solution will ensure effective participation by Damascus and its allies in the peace process in Lebanon and will, in the meantime, result in the withdrawal of the Syrian forces."]

Birri Says Algerians To Oversee Peace Plan

NC1709203989 Paris AFP in English 2023 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 17 (AFP)—Algerian observers are to oversee the implementation of a security scheme in Lebanon that is part of an Arab plan to halt six months of factional fighting here, Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Shiite movement, said Sunday.

He was speaking at his home in Syrian-controlled West Beirut after a meeting with Arab League Deputy Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi, an Algerian diplomat responsible for applying a seven-point peace plan.

"Algerian observers will control everything," Mr. Birri said, adding that Mr Ibrahimi would determine their numbers. [passage omitted]

Complaint Lodged Against Israeli Attack

NC1609061489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Yesterday, Lebanon lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council against Israel's attack on 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and its raids on villages in al-'Urqub. The complaint notes that all these Israeli acts constitute a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and blatant aggression against its soil.

Hizballah Denies Members Arrested for Spying

NC1509170789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] REUTER has cited Islamic security sources as saying that Hizballah arrested at least 10 of its members on charges of spying for Israel. The sources said that those arrested include some students of Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, women, and members of the Hizabllah security organ. REUTER cited one of the sources as saying that the detainees have confessed and will be executed shortly. However, a Hizballah spokesman has denied the report.

8 Killed, 6 Missing in Collapsed Building

NC1809095289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] A seven-story building collapsed during the night in the Harat Hurayk area. Hizballah sources said that six people were missing and that teams are removing the rubble to try to discover their fate.

REUTER cited security sources as saying that a 5-story [as heard] building which was hit during last night's shelling collapsed, killing eight people. The sources said that the building is in the Harat Hurayk area in the southern suburb and that it was hit, causing a fire to start in it. Rescue teams removed eight bodies, including that of one of the bodyguards of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, whose house is only few meters from the collapsed building.

[Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 18 September cites a Hizballah source as saying that "this buiding, part of which has collapsed, is very far from 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhamman Husayn Fadlallah's house."—fbis]

Collapse Kills 18

NC1809170889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] AFP has cited security sources in the Southern Suburb as saying that the collapse of a building there was caused by the explosion of an ammunition dump. The dump was hit by two shells last night when the Army returned the fire of the Syrians who were bombarding the eastern areas. The agency said no fewer than 18 people died when the building collapsed, and 20 others were injured. Quoting eyewitnesses in the area, the agency said five Hizballah members were among those who died in the incident. It noted that the building concerned used to house a Hizballah center.

Fierce Clashes, Shelling Continue 15 Sep

NC1509143589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Fierce clashes took place along the al-Tayyunah, Dar al-Kitab, al-Matahin, al-Barid, Primo, Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, al- Barjawi, Museum, and al-Barbir lines at 1535 today. Shells are landing in the central area and on the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Ashrafiyah. Antitank fire has also reached as far as al- Mukallis and al-Dikwanah.

Between 1540 and 1605, the al-Fanar, al-Dikwanah, al-Judaydah, and Sinn al-Fil on the northern al-Matn coast were the target of shellfire.

Clashes involving the use of light- and medium-caliber machineguns and RPG's were reported along the 'Ayn al-Tuffahah, Zighrin, and Shrin lines shortly after 1600. The fighting, in which mortars were used, became fierce at 1635. In the meantime, the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah continued to come under shellfire.[passage omitted]

As a result of the treacherous Syrian attacks against 'Ayn al- Rummanah, citizen Hunaynah Rahhal was martyred; Nakhlah Abu 'Abdu and Hayam Makhluf were injured and taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. Butrus Abu al-Hasn and his son 'Imad were also wounded and taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. They left the hospital after receiving treatment.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol in South

NC1509153789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, national resistance fighters attacked a patrol of enemy forces and their agents in the al-'Ayshiyah area this afternoon. In the ensuing 20-minute clash in which automatic weapons and rockets were used, 15 members of the patrol were killed or wounded.

One resistance fighter was martyred, and the others returned safely to base.

'Awn Army Positions Shell Western Area

NC1509161089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] 'Awn's army aggravated the security situation at 1640 today. The areas of al-Ghubayrah, Bir 'al-'Abd, Harat Hurayk, Burj al-Barajinah, Ru'ays, and al-Murayjah in Beirut's Southern Suburb were shelled by 'Awn's artillery positions in the eastern area.

Just before we entered the studio, we were informed that al-Shiyah and the Shatila traffic circle have come under artillery shelling. The areas of Wadi Abu Jamil, Wata al-Musaytibah, the Arab University, UNESCO, and al-Barbir have also come under fierce shelling.

Al-Janah and Bi'r Hasan were shelled at 1700 and a number of shells fell around Beirut airport at 1710.

Meanwhile, clashes have taken place on the 'Ayn al-Tuffahah-Shrin combat lines in al-Matn.

Several persons were wounded in the shelling of the western area, including Muhammad Dulani, Mahmud Abu-Sawsi, and soldier Husayn Musyk, and were taken to the al-Maqasid Hospital. Nazih Khalil was also wounded and taken to the al-Sahil Hospital. 'Ali Salih, master sergeant in the internal security forces, was taken to the American University Hospital.

Clashes Raging on Mountain, Other Areas

NC1509191589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Clashes have been raging along the Suq al-Gharb-'Ayatat line in the mountain since 2140. Intermittent clashes are also reported along the Ra's al-Nab'-Primo-al-Barjawi and al-Tayyunah-Dar al-Kitab-al-Matahin-al-Barid lines.

8 Reported Killed in 15 Sep Clashes

NC1509192589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The Syrians renewed their attacks against the eastern areas at 2130. Clashes involving machineguns and rockets raged along the al-'Ibadiyah-Dahr al-Wahsh line. Flares were seen over the area.

At 2145, shells reached as far as al-Ashrafiyah and northern al-Matn coast, which remain the target of Syrian artillery fire.

According to a preliminary toll, eight persons were killed in East and West Beirut. [passage omitted]

13 Killed, 77 Wounded in Overnight Clashes

NC1609061189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpt] According to a new casualty count this morning, 13 people were killed and 77 others were wounded during 10 hours of fighting and shelling last night. This figure includes 8 dead and 29 wounded in the eastern areas; 4 dead and 42 wounded in West Beirut; and 1 dead and 6 wounded in upper al-Matn.

The shelling covered Beirut, the Beirut suburbs, the upper and lower al-Matn regions, and the mountain. The flare-up began at about 1500 yesterday and continued until after midnight last night.

The shelling of the Futuh Kasrawan region resumed at 0515 today, and the shelling of the al-Hadath area resumed at about 0400 today. [passage omitted]

Maritime Target Bombarded off Juniyah 16 Sep

NC1609074389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Communique issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate in Beirut on 16 September]

[Text] After the al-Yarzah ['Awn] command triggered the flare-up in various military centers and residential quarters in the capital, southern suburb, and the mountain yesterday, a maritime vessel tried to approach the Juniyah coast at 0400 today. Our artillery engaged the target, preventing it from accomplishing its mission.

Army Intercepts Maritime Target

NC1709080889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Communique issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate in West Beirut on 17 September]

[Text] Our artillery intercepted a maritime target that tried to approach the Juniyah Coast at 0200 today. Our artillery prevented the target from accomplishing its goal. This demonstrates that the al-Yarzah ['Awn] command persists in its schemes to drown the country in further calamities. By its attempts to bring more ships loaded with arms and ammunition, this command is disregarding the resolutions adopted by the Arab committee and the optimistic atmosphere it has created.

Resistance Fighters Attack Post in Zummarayya

NC1609114489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] To celebrate the National Resistance Front's 7th anniversary, the National Resistance fighters today carried out a new operation against the enemy soldiers and their agent militiamen in the township of Zummarayya.

A statement issued by the front's command said that at 0245 this morning the group of martyr Mahmud al-Hujayri, hero of the Kafr Shuba operation, used rockets and machineguns to attack the Israeli enemy and its agents at Zummarayya post. A clash ensued with the troops manning their positions for more than 30 minutes. The resistance fighters destroyed the guards' bunker overlooking the post. The statement added that the fighters heard the enemy soldiers' screams. Immediately afterward, the occupation troops mounted a large-scale search that lasted more than 3 hours.

Syrian 'Occupation Army' Involved in Shelling

NC1609095789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation army shelled Bikfayya and its vicinity this morning with long-range artillery and repeated the shelling at 1130. Violent clashes erupted a short while ago on the al-Duwwar-al-'Ayrun-Shrin-'Ayn-al-Tuffahah combat lines.

Clashes involving rockets and machineguns raged on the Primo- Ra's-al-Nab' combat line in the capital.

Our correspondent reports the following developments:

At 1020 unidentified aircraft flew over the mountain at high altitudes. At 1040 shells were fired from Tallat al-Shatrah in 'Alayh on the army positions in Suq al-Gharb. At 1100 attacks on the army positions in al-Duwwar developed into clashes on the al-Duwwar-al-'Ayrun combat line. At 1155 shells fell on the Primo-al-Barjawi combat line.

At 1200 battles raged on the al-Duwwar-al-'Ayrun-Shrin-'Ayn-al- Tuffahah combat line.

Syrian Rocket Attacks Wound Eleven People

NC1609200389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Tension continues along the lines in the commercial area in the capital and Dahr al-Wahsh on the mountain in the wake of Syrian attacks. A rocket was fired at al-Hazimiyah this afternoon, while al-Ashrafiyah and al-Hadath were subjected to shellfire. Eleven persons were wounded in these attacks. The Lebanese Army returned the Syrian fire.

Intermittent Fighting Reported in Beirut

NC1709070789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The first point in the tripartite Arab committee's statement calling for an immediate and a comprehensive cease-fire was shaken only few hours after the statement was made. The Syrian occupation forces made the security situation flare up on the fronts and shelled a number of the eastern residential areas last night, particularly al-Ashrafiyah and the Kasrawan Coast. Fighting took place at the same time on the combat lines of Beirut, the suburb, and the mountain.

Intermittent fighting involving machineguns and rockets was reported this morning on the al-Tayyunah-Dar-al-Kitab-'Ayn-al- Rummanah-al-Shiyah combat lines and up to the Mar Mika"il-Galeries Sam'an combat line.

Resistance Claims Attack on Israelis in South

NC1709101689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] A group of the National Resistance Front attacked a position jointly manned by Israeli troops and their agents in al-Qantarah early today. A clash ensued between the enemy troops and resistance fighters leaving a number of occupation forces and agent militiamen killed or wounded. Immediately afterward, the enemy threw a security cordon around the scene of the operation and bombarded the old quarter in the town.

At 0630, the enemy intensified its attacks against nearby areas, subjecting them to concentrated bombardment. Two citizens were wounded and three houses completely destroyed.

In a statement on the operation, the National Resistance Front command said that three groups [as heard] carried out a major offensive against the agents' position in al-Qantarah. The statement noted that one of the groups attacked the position from the east and managed to destroy a tank and two observation posts. The second group, the statement added, attacked the position from the southwest and succeeded in destroying an observation post and a machinegun emplacement. The third group provided support and protection to the two attacking groups. The statement pointed out that 90 minutes of heavy fighting broke out during which the resistance fighters managed to silence all sources of fire.

Shells Fall on Jubayl Coast; Clashes in Beirut

NC1709131589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The Jubayl coast was the target of four shells fired by the Syrian artillery emplacements in the north at 1535 today.

Intermittent fighting involving machineguns and B-7 rockets are taking place on the Primo, al-Barjawi, and

R'as al-Nab' combat lines in the capital between the positions of the Lebanese Army and the Syrian occupation forces. Several shells fell on the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah at 1530.

PFLP Group Attacks Israeli, SLA Position

NC1709160789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] A group of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] attacked a position of the enemy and his agents in Anan near Jazzin this morning, resulting in a 30-minute clash involving machineguns, rockets, and artillery. The group planted explosive devices inside the position. Two enemy vehicles were destroyed and were seen in flames on the battlefield. The members of the group returned safely to their bases.

Beirut Skirmishes Continue; Syrian Tank Destroyed

NC1709174189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Skirmishes are continuing on the Ra's al-Nab', Primo, and al-Barjawi confrontation lines in Beirut following fighting along these lines around noon today.

The Syrians attempted to recover the bodies of four fighters who fell on the Dahr al-Wahsh-Government Secondary School line yesterday, but were unable to do so.

Intermittent skirmishes also took place on the Suq al-Gharb and al-Hadath confrontation lines.

Lebanese Army sources said that the Army this evening destroyed a Syrian tank in (Bi'r al-Shaykh 'Arif), which was firing at army positions in Suq al-Gharb.

A shell fell in Sinn al-Fil at 1910 today.

Clashes Continue on Mountain Combat Lines

NC1709193889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Clashes triggered by the al-Yarzah army gangs a short time ago are taking place on the mountain combat lines.

Some mortar shells are falling on the town of [name indistinct] and Baysur also is coming under fire.

Presidential Palace Comes Under Syrian Shelling

NC1709195889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1925 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The Presidential Palace has been coming under direct Syrian shelling by 130-mm field artillery for some time.

Security sources have pinpointed the soure of shelling as Dayr Qubil and 'Aramun.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes continue on the 'Alayh, Shimlan, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb combat lines.

'Guarded Calm' Prevails After Night of Fighting

NC1809060589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Guarded calm is prevailing on the traditional lines in Beirut, the suburb, and the mountain following last night's clashes. Intermittent clashes began at 2220 on the Bsaba-al-Ma'rufiyah and the 'Aytat-Suq-al-Gharb lines. The clashes lasted until midnight when some shells fell on al-Hadath area.

The coasts of Jubayl, Kasrawan, and al-Matn came under shelling at midnight from the Syrian emplacements in Upper al-Matn and 'Aramun. Five shells fell on Hursh Thabit and al-Mukallis between 0130 and 0200 today, causing a fire.

At 0300, fierce clashes were resumed on the mountain lines. Shells fell on the Kasrawan, al-Matn, and Jubayl coasts and on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and al-Hadath.

In retaliation against the hostile positions, shells fell on the areas of the Military Beach, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Wadi Abu-Jamil, Ra's al-Nab', the Sports City, al-Shiyyah, al-Ghubayrah, the airport road, Harat Hurayk, al-Ruways, Hayy al-Sullum, and Burj al-Barajinah.

Clashes, Sporadic Shelling Reported in al-Hadath

NC1809165889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Clashes in which machineguns and mortars are being used have been taking place on the Saqy al-Hadath, al-Laylakah, St Therese, and al-Mu'allim Sufayr combat lines since 1800 today. Sporadic shells are falling in residential neighborhoods adjacent to the combat lines in al-Hadath.

Meanwhile, there has been intermittent fighting on the Primo, Ra's al-Nab', and al-Barjawi lines since 1645. The Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat front in the mountain area is tense, and there have been exchanges of machinegun fire on a limited scale.

Soviet Union Supplying 'Sophisticated' Missiles

LD1509103589 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0942 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS reports today that Syria has received "very sophisticated" missiles from the Soviet Union. The report says that Syria had persistently demanded the missiles during Soviet Defense Minister General Dmitriy Yazov's visit to Damascus last March.

The daily attributed the report to some "well informed" Eastern sources in Beirut. It did not give any details about the aforementioned missiles, but it did add that a Soviet Army artillery and missile unit commander's recent visit to Syria was "very important" and had "some (?working) and unusual aspects."

Government Backs Tripartite Committee Statement

JN1609144989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1418 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] An official source in Damascus has stated the following:

After reviewing of the Arab tripartite committee statement issued today on the state of affairs in Lebanon, the Syrian Government welcomes this statement and the practical measures it contains to immediately and comprehensively implement a cease-fire. The Syrian Government also welcomes its call for the formation of a Lebanese security committee to supervise the cease-fire and control shipping to interdict deliveries of weapons and ammunition to any party whatsoever, as well as its call for the lifting of the sea blockade and the reopening of Beirut international airport as soon as the Lebanese security committee starts to carry out its duties.

The Syrian Government reiterates its conviction that the implementation of these security measures will prevent the shedding of the blood of Lebanese brothers, put an end to their tribulation, and pave the way for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolution.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which proclaimed its support for the Casablanca summit resolution from the very first moment of its issuance, reiterates its abidance by this resolution and its support for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee tasked to implement this resolution. The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Lebanese parties to respond to the committee's statement and to cooperate with it to implement the resolution.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Dispatched to Damascus

Al-Shar' Welcomes Visit

JN1609120589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the ambassadors of the member states of the Arab tripartite committee in Damascus. They are Saudi Ambassador Ahmad al-Quhaymi, Algerian Ambassador Moubarek Djedri, and Moroccan Ambassador Driss Dhahhak. The ambassadors conveyed to the minister the greetings of their foreign ministers, as well as the tripartite committee's decision to resume its mission and dispatch Lakhdar Ibrahimi to Damascus and Beirut.

Al-Shar' expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee and welcomed Ibrahimi's visit. He wished the committee success in its efforts.

Confers With Khaddam

JN1709114089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, at 1100 today. Ibrahimi reviewed the results of the Arab tripartite committee's meetings on Lebanon and his course of action within the framework of the committee's work.

The vice president expressed Syria's welcome of the Arab tripartite committee's statement and stressed Syria's eagerness to exert every possible effort and assistance for the sake of bringing about the success of the committee's efforts.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN1709143189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around the means to implement the tripartite committee statement issued yesterday.

Radio Reaffirms Support for Committee Statement

JN1709134689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The statement issued yesterday by the Arab tripartite committee stirred a number of reactions. On the whole, these reactions welcomed and expressed satisfaction with the practical measures included in the statement to resolve the Lebanese crisis according to the Casablanca summit resolutions. These resolutions determined the required mechanism to resolve the approximately 15-year-old crisis, which has been full of destruction and tragedies and has transformed fraternal Lebanon into an ever-bleeding wound in the Arab body. This calls for massing all sincere efforts to save Lebanon and its people from the continuous Zionist conspiracy, which targets not only Lebanon but also the whole of the Arab nation.

Arab Syria was at the head of the states that welcomed the tripartite committee statement. An official source has stated that the Syrian Government welcomed the statement and the practical steps it included to establish an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire in Lebanon, set up a Lebanese security committee to supervise the cease-fire and monitor ships to prevent arms and ammunition from reaching any party, lift the naval blockade, and open Beirut international airport as soon as the Lebanese security committee begins its work.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again expressed its conviction that the implementation of these security measures would save the blood of the Lebanese brothers, put an end to their suffering, and pave the way for resolving the Lebanese crisis according to the Casablanca summit resolution.

Therefore, all those loyal to Lebanon and its Arabism, both inside and outside Lebanon, realize once again that Syria, which is always faithful to Arab interests and the Arab nation's objectives, remains firm in its position and provides support and backing for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee and the Casablanca summit resolution.

Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, has directed its attention to rescue Arab Lebanon, with all its groups and without exception, from the claws of the Zionist conspiracy of partition and fragmentation and to keep it united and independent. This was its objective since the beginning of its pan-Arab and humanitarian initiative in Lebanon, and this always will remain its constant objective. It will extend all help and assistance to sincere efforts aimed at realizing this noble goal. And it will not pay attention to the falsehoods of a small agent group or the hatred of Saddam's fascist regime.

The Lebanese nationalist forces and all Lebanese leaders who believe in Lebanon's unity and Arabism and who represent the great majority of the fraternal Lebanese people have welcomed the Arab tripartite committee statement. They asserted their adherence to it and went to the extent of considering it a rare opportunity, which may not be repeated, to save Lebanon. They did so out of their faith in the Arab solution and their rejection of foreign sabotage and intervention by the Israeli enemy and the regime of murder in Baghdad, both of which have found the general of the al-Yarzah and his selfish ambitions to be tools in achieving their common desire to destroy Lebanon, murder its people, and expel them from their land.

Saddam's fascist regime, which exploited every opportunity to implement the Zionist conspiracy against Lebanon and send reassuring messages to the Israeli enemy, will not refrain this time from continuing its treacherous role. It will use every means available to strike against the serious Arab trend to rescue Lebanon by continuing to support the agent tools with arms and ammunition in order to block the cease-fire in Lebanon and continue to spread the fire of sedition to cover up its crimes against Iraq, its people, and against the Arab nation.

That conspiratorial regime opposed the Arab unanimity demonstrated at the Casablanca summit and which was translated into resolutions to rescue Lebanon from its dilemma. It also sought to hamper the efforts exerted to put an end to the fighting and tried to partition the fraternal country within the context of implementing the Zionist scheme.

The nationalist forces in Lebanon and all those faithful to its unity and Arabism, including the kinfolk in the eastern area who are subjugated to terror and oppression, realize that the Iraqi regime's role of sabotage has brought them disasters, tragedies, and more destruction and murder. They also realize that in order to extinguish the fire of sedition, the hindering efforts practiced by the fascist conspiratorial regime must be stopped.

Hence, the seven points of the Arab tripartite committee statement and the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions are the dependable basis to continue the march to rescue Lebanon.

The committee will receive all sincere support from Syria, the Lebanese people, and other sincere forces to continue to implement its plan.

However, the fears expressed by some—which are legitimate fears in view of previous experience—regarding the possibility of the Iraqi regime's resorting to maneuvers, falsehoods, and cheating and continuing its treacherous role of inflaming and feeding the fire of sedition demand the intensification of Arab and Lebanese efforts to end the ploy of sabotage and conspiracy practiced by Saddam's regime. They also call for condemning the role of that regime, which plants the seeds of sedition and discord in the Arab arena in general and in Lebanon in particular.

It must be asserted that the Arab people of Lebanon, who suffered many tragedies and disasters at the hands of the agent groups and their allies—such as Saddam's regime and the Israeli enemy—owe their Arab nation this: To return to their normal life, to be able to rebuild what was destroyed by the Zionist conspiracy, and to establish a system they accept and believe answers their aspirations and future ambitions.

Every Arab effort that falls within this framework will find in Arab Syria and its vanguard role in the Lebanese arena unyielding support on which it can depend. This is because saving Lebanon and preserving its unity and Arabism are objectives on which the Arab nation agrees. They are also the only objectives that serve Lebanon's national interest and the supreme interest of Arabs in all of their countries.

Press Reports Cited

JN1709082889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Press review]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Today's press editorials deal with the statement made by an official Syrian source on the statement issued by the Arab tripartite committee. Under the headline "The Lebanon of Tomorrow," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is high time that Lebanon, as well as all those who sincerely want to see it retain its unity and Arabism, start to recover, enjoy a stable, secure, and peaceful atmosphere, and witness the beginning of a crossing to safe shores. Such a beginning would help end the bloodshed, pave the way for a national solution that ensures justice and equality to all sons of the homeland, and unify the people's efforts to confront the danger of the Zionist occupiers in southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: Lebanon and those sincerely seeking to rescue it have missed numerous chances for recovery. Prospects for salvation have previously dawned on the Lebanese horizon. Those who sought, however, to assassinate Lebanon stood against all salvation attempts by implementing a grand conspiracy hatched by the Zionist enemy. This enemy used cheap tools to construct this conspiracy. These tools are notorious for their hatred of Arabism and also for their adopted professions of killing and shedding of blood. This is what has been taking place over the past 6 months, when the Lebanese people awoke to the sounds of 'Awn's guns, which have killed innocent old people, children, women, and youths.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Lebanon paid dearly for its freedom, dignity, and Arabism. However, the Lebanon of tomorrow eventually will be a unified homeland for a unified people—a Lebanon in which justice and equality will prevail. This Lebanon will continue to resist Israel's occupation and its internal agents until Lebanese soil is purged of their filth.

Under the headline "Lebanon and the Arduous March toward Peace," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: With the resumption of the Arab tripartite committee's mission and efforts to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon, certain indicators in the Lebanese arena in particular and in the Arab and international arenas in general have emerged. These indicators affirm the need to achieve and implement political reforms, considering this is the only road and sound prelude to a national accord. This is the only way to help Lebanon reach safe shores and lay the foundations for a system of justice, equality, and equal opportunities among all Lebanese. This is significant because the events of the past 14 years have shown the futility and fragility of a system based on special privileges—a system which has failed to truly express the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people. Besides, this system also has failed to project an image that embodies the ambitions and aspirations of this people when it comes to building the Lebanon of tomorrow—a non-sectarian, free, independent, and Arab Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This new move, which seeks to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and find a solution to the crisis, grew out of Arab and international convictions that these reforms must be implemented because it is impossible for military force to achieve any positive result or impose any solution. Moreover, seeking the help of the enemies of Lebanon and Arabism, such as Israel and the Iraqi regime, or seeking the delivery of destructive weapons will not benefit those who are wagering on this support, nor will it help them realize their objectives, even if this were to result in immense devastation and large-scale killing in Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has continued throughout the crisis years to make sacrifices for the sake of serving and saving Lebanon. Syria has made sacrifices to defend Lebanon's Arabism, unity, land, and people, firmly confronting all conspiracies of Zionization, fragmentation, and division. Syria will continue to provide the tripartite committee with the required support and backing, just as it has in the past, to help the committee in its endeavors to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions. Syria will neither spare any effort nor fail to make any sacrifice to help save Lebanon and enable it to reach the shores of safety and peace.

Press Reports Cited

JN1809070389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Syrian Welcome of the Tripartite Committee's Statement and the Firm Principles," AL-BA'TH says: The Syrian Arab favorable reception of the Arab tripartite committee's statement issued in Jeddah on Saturday [16 September] with regard to the Lebanese crisis is neither new nor surprising. Syria has welcomed the statement because it is based on principles from which Syria has not deviated throughout many years of dealing with the Lebanese situation. Syria's welcome also removed much of the smoke created by hireling media organs that obscured the real Syrian position on the Lebanese crisis in general and on the activities of the Arab tripartite committee in particular.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has always said that it will support and welcome the success of anything that helps implement the Casablanca summit resolutions because the Casablanca resolutions represent the essential elements of what the Arabs have unanimously agreed upon to discuss a fair solution to the Lebanese crisis and to save the fraternal Lebanese people from the hell of the destructive war that has been raging for 14 years. The fair solution in Lebanon was never to be found in the entrenchment of the Zionist phenomenon represented by 'Awn and his clique—supported with arms and money by the fascist regime in Iraq—because

entrenching, appeasing, or ignoring this phenomenon will torpedo the idea of reforms.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Building the new Lebanon can only be achieved through the national option on which the views of the nationalist and Islamic forces and all the Lebanese people converge. Syria does not hide its support for this option nor its support for the forces representing it. This is because it supports a pan-Arab concept, representing the majority of the Lebanese people, against an Israeli concept through which 'Awn and the Baghdad and Tel Aviv rulers want to split Lebanon from its Arab affiliation.

Under the headline "The Rare Opportunity," TISHRIN publishes the following in the "Behind the Events" column: Syria, the Lebanese people, the Arabs, and the international community have welcomed the Arab tripartite committee's statement that includes practical measures for a cease-fire in Lebanon and a final resolution of the Lebanese crisis in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions. Syria has expressed its conviction that the implementation of these measures will stop the bloodshed and tribulation in Lebanon and reach a solution to the crisis that has been exacerbated by General 'Awn's decision to launch his destructive war that resulted in the death of many Lebanese citizens and in heavy losses.

TISHRIN adds: The Lebanese nationalists will not let the Lebanese people down but will rise to their great responsibility despite the destruction inflicted on West Beirut and the nationalist and Islamic areas by 'Awn and his military clique. The ball is now in the other court. The prominent figures of East Beirut should abandon verbal condemnation of 'Awn's war and his policy of destruction and take practical and tangible steps to save the Lebanese people from their ordeal and find a solution to the terrifying nightmare prevailing in the areas under the control of the isolationist militias.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: East Beirut's prominent figures are today called on to adopt a frank and decisive position to finish those who are tampering with the fate of Lebanon. The sisterly state will stand up by virtue of its sons' solidarity and its cooperation with its community, and not through wars, killing, annihilation, and displacement. This is a rare opportunity that should not be wasted, and the future of Lebanon and the Lebanese depends on this opportunity.

Muslim Brothers Official on Awn's 'Legitimacy'

NC1609213389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] 'Adnan Sa'd-al-Din, supreme guide of the Syrian Muslim Brothers, gave an interview to the Paris-based Arabic magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI today. He asked why the Arabs remained silent and tried to save the Syrian regime during the Casablanca summit, after it had been exposed and was on the verge of collapse. He asked: Why did they take it upon themselves to resolve the Lebanese issue and give the Syrian regime a fresh opportunity to add tens of thousands of innocent people to its massacres?

Sa'd-al-Din said that what is happening today in Lebanon is incredible and inhuman by any standard. He added that the Syrian regime gloats over killing children; killing Syrian children did not quench its thirst for blood and so it specialized in exterminating Palestinian children in camps. Now it is turning to Lebanon, he said.

The Muslim Brothers guide acknowledged the legitimacy of General Michel 'Awn, saying that the Lebanese Constitution stipulates that if the parliament fails to elect a president, the Council of Ministers, which is appointed by the president, shall be entrusted with the task.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Media Seminar 17 Sep

LD1709212189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at a mass media seminar in Kabul 17 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Very dear friends and guests, first of all I welcome you sincerely. [passage omitted]

Today we are leaving behind very difficult times. However, this has also been a historical and important period for our people. As a result of 10 years of imposed war on the people of Afghanistan, our country has suffered great material and financial losses, as well as great loss of lives. We can tell you that in the course of these 10 years 1.5 million people have been killed, 1.3 million have been wounded or disabled, and billions of dollars in material, financial, and economic damage has been inflicted on our country.

With the signing of the Geneva accords, it was expected that interference [words indistinct] and peace would be established in our country. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have (?upheld) the pledges they made under the accords [words indistinct] the open violation of the pledges Pakistan and the United States made within the framework of the Geneva accords and interference in our country not only did not cease, but were transformed into open intervention and aggression.

It should be said with regret that with the direct participation of [words indistinct] of the Pakistani Army, along with the Pakistani militia, some 10,000 persons, including Saudi and other Arab mercenaries—who received military training in Pakistan—and the armed forced opposing us [words indistinct] took place with the joint enemy forces, several times in some border areas, such as Nangarhar, Khowst, and Zabol. In addition to the active participation of Pakistani troops and others, the Pakistani Army corps in the area of Jalalabad and military Corp No 12 in the area of Qandahar provided all-around support with heavy weapons and artillery. This way carried out by the units and companies of these military corps in combat. Logistics and supplies were provided by the Pakistanis and in this way interference was transformed into open aggression.

This open aggression took place because some political and military circles in Pakistan, the United States, and some other countries believed that after the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet contingents, the regime would collapse within hours or probably days. But hours went by, days went by and now you can see that months have passed. The regime has proved its authority by staying alive. It has demonstrated steadfastness and resistaence in defense of territorial integrity, independence and national sovereignty, not only before its own people, but before the world. It proved that the circles demanding a military solution to the question of Afghanistan did not achieve anything but the destruction of our country and the killing of our people.

Yesterday I read an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES in which they have given us another opportunity; it said the regime of Najibullah would collapse in 18 months. [passage indistinct] They have suffered heavy loss of life. We are not happy with this, that the enemy, in the course of the last 6 months, has suffered more losses than it suffered in the last 6 years. The opposition too, in the majority, despite the fact that Pakistani troops, the Pakistani militia, and Arabs and mercenaries also suffered, but the majority were our Afghans. We feel responsible for their life and death.

I should tell you categorically that prior to the election of Benazir Bhutto as the Pakistani prime minister, the people of Afghanistan thought that with her coming to power there would be a change in Pakistan's policy regarding Afghanistan. I could claim that one of the factors which led to Benazir Bhutto's success in the elections was the categorical opposition to and stand on Ziaul Haq's Afghan policy. However, before handing over the premiership to her, a number of conditions were imposed on her: She should not interfere in the authority of the head of state; she should not interfere in military affairs; Yaqub Khan should be foreign minister; and the policy of Pakistan, including the policy on Afghanistan, should be pursued as before. In this way, regrettably, Benazir Bhutto came to power as a prime minsiter handcuffed and imprisoned. The militarists got the opportunity, under the cover of democracy, to follow their past policy with even more intensity and force.

In this way what had not happened in Ziaul Haq's time, happened: further steps were taken toward the intensification of this policy. The council of the Mojahidin was formed after the Geneva accords at the time of Benazir Bhutto's government; the interim government of the so-called council was formed in Pakistan; and, if it was interference up until a day before, open aggression took place against our country.

What a precedence they set: that everyone should have the right—Afghanistan and India—to form another country's parliament in its territory. As you know there is a lot of opposition in Pakistan. We have friendly relations with a large part of this opposition. We can also create a parliament in Afghanistan, in connection with this opposition and dissidents. If such a norm and custom begins; that everyone in every country can form a government for another country, from a parliament for another country and another people, then what will be left for relations between states? What sort of relations would they be? Won't these relations descend to the level of the jungle?

(?In this regard) we have warned several times that if such an adventurous policy is pursued in this region, then the war cannot remain burning solely in the Afghan land; these flames could go beyond the borders of our

country and be transformed into a complete regional war. In this way, peace and stability in the region and consequently international peace could be endangered.

That is why, in order to prevent bloodshed and war in our country, we have [words indistinct]. We have put forward proposals and initiatives, on the national and international level, for the restoration of peace and the maintenance of security in the country. Fortunately, these constructive initiatives and proposals were comprehensively supported, both nationally and internationally by the people of Afghanistan and the people of the world. Except for a few countries, we obtained the all-round support of the nonaligned countries.

What are our proposals on the national and international levels?

On the national level, we want talks and dialogue with all the forces who want peace in the country. Such negotiations should commence and after that, a peace conference should be convened. The peace conference would create a joint council of the state council which would demonstrate how all participating forces would work together in the cause of maintaining peace; they would declare a 6-month cease-fire; this council would then create a coalition government with the participation of all political forces. This government then would have the task, on the one hand, to control the cease-fire and, on the other hand, to write a constitution and a law for parliamentary elections. The Grand Assembly of Afghanistan would be invited to approve these laws; after the approval of laws by [words indistinct], and we are ready to accept UN supervision of these elections.

Whoever obtains a majority in these elections or the coalition of parties who wins the majority, should form the new government. This is the mechanism that we have put forward in order to realize the higher interest of peace. If a path existed where we all could hand over our destiny on the basis of the principles of democracy to the people and for the people to have the right to choose their own sovereignty, to choose their own path, then why has the principle of democracy not been supported? Why then is there insistance and pressure that all the questions be solved through military means in Afghanistan [words indistinct], which is the claim made in Pakistan?

It has been claimed in Pakistan that the United States defends the democratic process in Pakistan. The democratic process is being defended in Pakistan. In Afghanistan there is military pressure. We should question the sincerity of these claims and whether they are in favor of democracy or military pressure.

In the international arena, we have presented a draft for the convocation of an international conference. It should be attended by Afghanistan, neighboring countries, among them India, the United States, the UN secretary general, and the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement in order to seek a political solution to issues on Afghanistan. We have also discussed holding a regional conference. [Words indistinct] to have an effect to find a peaceful solution to the problem around Afghanistan and to play its role. [passage omitted]

However, these difficult days will pass. We have full confidence and belief and we are optimistic [preceding word in English] in this regard that peace will be ensured in our country. Security, prosperity and welfare will come to our people. Instead of tears in the eyes of orphans, smiles will come to their faces. However, during those days, the future generations of our country will go through the pages of the hard days in the history of their country. And they will find that those people who were standing at their side during these hards days, were their friends and rendered them moral, political and all-round support in various ways. The features of these friends will be registered in the pages of our history with golden letters. Fortunately, these faces are still standing before us. The title of your conference is closely connected with the current issues in our country. Afghanistan, as a stage for one of the longest and most painful regional conflicts, has attracted the conscience of peace-loving mankind increasingly. At present, the number of those people who do not accept the logic of the continuation of war and demand an immediate end to the slaughter and destruction in our country, is rapidly increasing.

In this matter one should not ignore the positive role of the mass media through which realistic and peaceful trends are felt more then ever. Still, enough has not been said about the pain and sorrow of the people of Afghanistan which has increased as a result of the intensification of interference and armed aggression. Still, the majority of the reports on Afghanistan are one-sided. And the actions of the opposition forces and their international patrons have not been assessed sufficiently in light of basic humanitarian principles and international legal and moral norms. Yet the reports mainly take the form of incident-writing and hardly assess the issues deeply. The mass media still does not play its full role as an effective and powerful instrument in helping to end the war and establish peace in Afghanistan.

I believe, however, that a new type of thinking in connection with peacefully resolving the issues related to Afghanistan is slowly but confidently taking shape in the world mass media right now, in Western countries too. Therefore, your role as the committed representatives of public opinion is very important in acclerating and deepening this trend. What our people expect from you is not the fact that you should definitely support the Republic of Afghanistan's stance. It is enough for us if you report the facts and truth about Afghanistan and free the world from the deliberate darkness created by a number of Western mass media representatives by provoking the issues. [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

It should be added that [words indistinct] with Nusrat Bhutto. (?She) sent a message back that I am interested

in a meeting, however Pakistan does not allow it. The head of the Pakistan delegation claims that my hands are tied, but my heart wants to conduct a meeting, but that I cannot conduct a meeting. They say that the Afghan Government is not independent, that it does not have authority to speak, let alone independent.

You have come to our country at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan, after the full withdrawal of the Soviet troops, in the last 7 months has decisively defended the positions, regions, main cities, and highways. Despite the destructive efforts by the extremists and their patrons, the situation in the country is in general calm; and it is constantly improving. The main supply routes are open, and the supply to the cities and garrisons are continuing. The Republic of Afghanistan has created the necessary stocks of maintenance supply for the future and [word indistinct] of supply has been carried out to a certain extent. Finally, if you had the opportunity, you might have seen our convoy which set off from Iowraghondi reach to Qandahar. I have mentioned to you before that the facts and truth are not being told in connection with the facts of our societies. What a hue and cry there was about this convoy, especially from the West, that it was plundered, that it was destroyed and the supplies scattered. However, you know that it arrived in Qandahar intact. It was something which hardly could have been done during the last years, almost 5 or 6 years. Even during the time of the Soviet troops' presence, we were supplying Qandahar by air. Today a huge convoy of more than 1,000 vehicles reached Qandahar [words indistinct]. What were they saying in the West? What was the mass media [previous two words given in English] saying?

It is for this reason we invite you to tell the world about the real facts which exist in our country. At the same time, the warmongering extremists, by intensifying military pressure, missile attacks, and terrorist measures on the cities, are separated [tajrid] from the political and moral viewpoints and subjected to hatred by the people. With every passing day, the process of talks, contacts, and negotiation is being expanded in various levels with the local opposition commanders. And new bridges of contacts and negotiation are being created between the aforementioned forces and the state authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan. During this time a number of the aforementioned commanders have openly joined the national reconciliation policy and have taken the responsiblity of ensuring the security of their regions in practice.

Finally you have seen that the United States also joined this idea that the commanders inside the country have an important role in connection with resolving or continuing the war in Afghanistan. We were saying and claiming yesterday that those people who are sitting in Pakistan do not have the authority to lead this internal process. Now, they have come to believe in the fact that they should rely on the thesis that we discussed and establish contacts with the field commanders directly.

There is a question for me: What will happen to the fate of the interim government if they do not have the authority to provide assistance directly to their commanders inside the country? And what if the United States carries out this assistance directly, then what will the legal authority and physical existence of this government be? And what political prestige will it have? [passage omitted]

The interim government has no legal basis, especially no national basis in Afghanistan. Time has proved that. Today the international patrons of Pakistan submit to this fact too. I think they should leave such [word indistinct] playing and should approach the issues more seriously—both the Pakistanis and the United States. For they will achieve nothing. Failed test follows failed test. One defeated policy, another defeated policy. Such issues only increase the pain and sufferings of our people and extend the war. They will not bring any serious results. It is not necessary for a civilized country such as the United States to approach the destiny of the people, countries, and continents fearlessly.

Our people, with the help of God, will overcome the current difficulties from the aggressive war and will build a progressive and peaceful Afghanistan—united and safe. Certainly those people who are helping the people of Afghanistan on this path will remain in the memory of our history and in the minds of Afghanistan's generations today and tomorrow.

We hope when you return to your countries you will reflect the peaceful trends of the Republic of Afghanistan and play your humanitarian role in explaining the cause of the Afghan people. You have already shown your desire to participate in this path with your attendance at this international seminar in Kabul. I wish you further successes from the bottom of my heart. [applause]

Najibullah Holds Belgrade News Conference

LD1309185589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Sep 89

[News conference given by President Najibullah in Belgrade on 6 September—recorded; questioners identified when possible]

[Text] Dear journalists, ladies, and gentlemen: I am pleased to see you in Belgrade, the cradle of the Nonaligned Movement. Allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for our reception by the state and party authorities of Yugoslavia. The ninth meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, the second such conference in Belgrade, demonstrates that the country of one of the movement's founders, Josip Broz Tito, is still loyal to the principles and to the implementation of the programs of the Nonaligned Movement. We wish that the Nonaligned Movement will be able to [words indistinct] in order to attain all lofty aims it has set itself to improve and safeguard human life. The delegation of the

Republic of Afghanistan actively, in a spirit of cooperation, and with good intentions, has participated in the work of the conference.

On top of other important issues before the conference, regional problems including that of Afghanistan held a special place. As far as we are concerned about the regional problem of Afghanistan, in the speech I delivered yesterday I proposed that a special committee comprising influential members of the Nonaligned Movement be set up and have the duty of [words indistinct] to take into consideration a comprehensive political resolution for the problem surrounding and inside Afghanistan. A delegation of the committee should visit the region and prepare a report for the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement in the wake of the UN General Assembly session so that the Movement can participate in the UN session with a united stance.

Events and incidents in Afghanistan, especially after the Soviet Union's limited contingent withdrew, have shown that the military option is futile and causes only the destruction of Afghanistan and many victims. The Afghan Government has made new proposals for the achievement of the lofty goal of restoring peace together with an implementation mechanism. We hope that the circles which still insist on the military solution of the Afghan problem will revise their stance in light of the real and objective situation in our country, Afghanistan. I hope that with the passage of time—not very far off, but very soon—those political, administrative and government circles of the countries that consider force and duress [words indistinct] the way to settle disputes will reach the conclusion of accepting the way of political resolution for the Afghan problem. I will not take up more of your time with my opening talk. Now you may ask your questions.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] On the basis of our previously established principles we have been ready and we are ready to conduct negotiations and reach understandings in the internal and international aspects of the problem with all sides involved in the dispute. These negotiations and understandings with the involved sides in the internal aspect of the dispute continue at various levels inside and outside of the country.

So far as negotiations and understanding with Iran and Pakistan are concerned, we are interested in the progress of such negotiations, and we should inform you [words indistinct]. But, as you say, Pakistan is in a belligerent position, so let us give some more time to Pakistan's policy-makers to be convinced that negotiation and understanding are preferable to fighting, force, and the use of force.

I can tell you clearly that in the debate at the conference I have found one prominent fact: the stance of the Republic of Afghanistan from the political viewpoint rested on a higher level, and the absolute majority of speakers declared their support for the case of Afghanistan, for a political solution of the Afghan problem, and for ensuring peace in Afghanistan. Without exaggeration, the atmosphere is such that Pakistan in the political arena is striding toward isolation. Such is our righteous stance on the implementation of the principles of the UN Charter and international conventions and the honest observance of the Geneva Accords and their honest implementation.

Those who trample on such international undertakings and conventions and the Geneva Accords, which they signed together with their guarantor, the United States, should know that the judgment of world opinion is free now. The countries, peoples, and forces will relentlessly defend the position of reality against those who want to jeopardize such credible international resolutions and such great international organizations. If they want to play with their credibility and prestige, then the hand of these international organizations and countries is powerful. That is why I say with confidence that after a short time anyone who supports such a theses will concede that world opinion is moving in a different direction. [passage indistinct] We want new political detente; we want the resolution of all disputes. In this test, particularly the test of Afghanistan, they should prove their honesty as regards these ideals of theirs, otherwise the confidence of all nations, especialy small countries, and people in these claims will evaporate.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] My attitude [words indistinct] and other issues rests on human principles and the guarantee of peace for the Afghan people. I have often said that if peace is guaranteed for the Afghan people we are prepared even to sacrifice our lives. But if Najibullah's stepping down means political provocations, that peace would not only not be restored but that Afghanistan would become another Lebanon, and if the internecine fighting among the seven-party alliance, even among the extremists, brought civil war to our country, in that case the suggestion of such issues reveals the intention of their designers beforehand. We believe that not the reduction of the forces, not the removal of parties and individuals, but the agreement of forces, parties, organizations, and personalities on national understanding, on national agreement, can heal the sorrows, bereavements, and screams of the Afghan people.

If they want all issues solved by talks and dialogue, devising any conditions for solving an issue by such talks will in fact drag these talks to a stalemate. I therefore invite those who rationally and earnestly believe in the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan to come and sit around the discussion table without any condition, so all these issues can be discussed and a conclusion can be reached.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] The lofty objective of our national reconciliation policy is to secure peace. We have proposed a

specific mechanism in order to achieve this objective. This mechanism says that compromising and thinking about positions, above all, should not be an issue, nor should the distribution of power be an issue—the first question should be the interest of the people [passage indistinct] and decision about peace; this should be considered. [passage indistinct]

Talks and dialogue should begin, the first result of which should be the establishment of a coalition government with the participation of all forces and relevant political organizations who are interested in restoring peace in the country. This government must be commissioned to control the cease-fire on the one hand, and to draft a constitution and an election bill on the other.

The traditional Loya Jerga of Afghanistan should then be invited to approve these laws. On the basis of these laws we will go to the general election and the elections of parliament. Even the government of the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to agree that these elections can take place under the direct supervision of the UN, under the supervision of a special UN commission, or under the supervision of the committee that we proposed in the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. Whoever receives the majority vote in this election, or a coalition composed of the majority, can bring about the new government.

I think that a rational and proper plan to achieve the lofty objective of peace can be such a mechanism. Otherwise, we do not consider the interests of the people, the persecuted and poor human beings; otherwise we are in a market and want to shop and bargain. I think that the interests of the people and the securing of the lofty humanitarian objective is above all private, political, party, and ideological interests. This is particularly true for those who say that the objective should be to serve the people—they should keep themselves above this minor and narrow-minded interest and devote themselves to these formidable national interests and lofty humanitarian interests.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] Some forces [passage indistinct] however desire and wish are different from facts: The question is, on the basis of which specific standard can these forces take part in the future political sovereignty of Afghanistan? We defend the principle that in the proportion and extent of their effectiveness and political influence, they can take part in this political sovereignty. For this purpose we have made an issue of the election principle, and I think the most democratic approach is the issue of majority and minority: the people's choice determines the power of a party.

However, I want to point out another fact as well: if the armed opposition forces had given a positive reply to our proposals and had not rejected them stubbornly and irrationally, they would have achieved many things by now. [passage indistinct]

Still, as I said earlier the cease-fire must be announced and dialogue and talks must begin. All these stages and process should be completed within 6 months. If the armed opposition forces and their regional and international supporters lose time and if another 6 months elapses, then they will lose many other things. You might ask why I, Najibullah, am so thirsty for talks and dialogue. Let time pass—the enemy will then become weaker? No, we are not thinking of the defeat and weaknesses of others. We think about the salvation of the people of our country, and if we are able to bring peace to our people as soon as possible we will accomplish the most formidable humane duty, as well as our national and historic duty. This is our stance.

[BBC correspondent in English with superimposed Dari translation] [Words indistinct] On one hand you talk of cease-fire and negotiation and on the other your forces launch a wide-scale attack on Qandahar. Why?

[Najibullah] As I told you before, the time has not yet come to give you a specific name; the Afghan tradition is that if the opposition does not want their names to be exposed then we will not expose their names. However, you answered this question yourself in the second part of your question.

We have not carried out any attack on Qandahar—we want to get a very large supply convoy from Herat to Qandahar; it is now approaching Qandahar. However, I can say to you that the operation along the route of this supply convoy [passage indistinct].

This alone shows that the majority of the commanders who are along this route or in the provinces along this route now ask: Why war, and for what purpose? If there was once an excuse for this war—the presence of the limited units of the Soviet Union—what excuse is there now? If yesterday the question of blasphemy and Islam was an issue, today it has been proved that outsiders want to spread Wahabism against the Islam religion. Considering these conditions, therefore, the commanders now know that these foreigners want inter-Afghan fighting and the shedding of Afghan blood by other Afghans. So we rely on the logic, capability, worthiness, skill, and reason of Afghans.

For example, on the eve of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet units, most were expressing doubt about the existence of our regime: They gave us hours, then changed to days, weeks, months, and now it is seasons. These seasons will also pass. However, we had faith and confidence that by relying on ourselves and on our people, even on those ranks who have joined the opposition forces' circles, we could bring about a brilliant result in the name Afghanism, in the name of homeland, and in the name of Islam—we now have in hand such a result.

[AFP correspondent speaking in French with superimposed Dari translation] The French citizen [passage indistinct].

[Najibullah] They entered Afghanistan via Quetta, Pakistan with an armed subversive group and arrived in Spin Boldak, intending to go to Herat to Captain Esmael's band [passage indistinct]. Those who enter the country with an armed subversive band have clear aims and objectives. Particularly now, there are necessary possibilities and facilities for the legal entry of journalists. The doors of Afghanistan are open to all. [passage indistinct] Why should one enter via the windows?

Because they entered the country illegally with an armed opposition group, the band faced resistance by the Afghan Armed Forces, which of course brought losses to both sides; one French citizen lost his life. We tried to secure his body but it remained with the opposition; however the other French citizen who was injured was captured. He was transferred to Kabul. This incident took place in Helmand. He was under treatment for serious injuries and now his medical condition is good.

When I was on the way to Belgrade to take part in the ninth Nonaligned Movement summit, I received a letter from French President Francois Mitterrand, to which I have already replied. Here at the summit the French ambassador came to me and Francois Mitterrand also contacted UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. During our meeting he also asked for his release [passage indistinct]. As usual we will show goodwill.

However, I ask you dear journalists, that if you can come to the country legally, even at a time when our understanding and talks with most of the commanders inside the country are an issue, we will prepare the ground for you. You can go to these commanders' areas if you are interested; then there will be no need to enter the country illegally with the armed subversive groups, forcing your governments, your presidents to ask for your release the next day. In the past we have taken action for the release of several Frenchmen, not one, two, or three but several of them [passage indistinct]. I hope to express our goodwill regarding this Frenchman, too.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] Distance is not an issue in firing rockets. One can fire a rocket anywhere: inside and outside. The question is [passage indistinct] those who until yesterday were saying that the refugees should have returned to their country in accordance with the Geneva Accords, but they do not return because there are minefields laid by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. There are no mines, however, for the movement of the subversive groups as they move freely. Today, the armed opposition groups have at their disposal new long-range rockets, supplied to them by the United States, directed not at military targets but at civilian targets, at cities. As you have said yourselves, the firing of rockets on Kabul city leaves behind not dozens but hundreds dead, consisting of children, women, young, and old.

The Muslim people of [passage indistinct] have faced such disaster. These rockets, which disperse 98 mines each, create minefields themselves. In broad daylight, I ask all of you esteemed journalists—and through you, through your mass media, we shall seek the judgment of world public opinion—whether or not this constitutes international terrorism, whether or not it is state terrorism.

I will give you an example. William Higgins was killed in Lebanon and the cry of the United States filled the world that it was terrorism. The U.S. Congress convened an extraordinary session and delegated the Bush administration with financial, military, and policial authority to retaliate. Only one American was killed. With the firing of one U.S. rocket on a city, not a dozen, but hundreds of people are either killed or injured. An American human being is made of flesh, skin, and bone while an Afghan human being has no value.

For a Frenchman, for a journalist, all international means to gain release are applied. It is good, we approve of it. It is a humanitarian act. But humanism shall not only be applicable to an American or a French citizen. [Passage indistinct] also needed for a citizen of Libya and for a citizen of Palestine. Some powers sit in an ivory tower. No one has the right to talk about anything they do, even if they affront humanism and human beings. No one can intrude on the ivory tower even if there is terrorism or mass killing, or rockets that cannot be detected by radar—which goes against the October 1980 convention resolving that the use of such arms of mass killing should be prohibited. If an American is captured or killed by us, the world will shake. [Passage indistinct] does it suit a civilized nation such as America. We are grateful to the people of America. Right now in the U.S. Congress realism has come into existence and it is asked: If until yesterday arms were supplied to the freedom fighter in the name of freedom fighting, for what are they supplied today? It is asked whether the supply of arms of mass destruction will damage the prestige and credibility of the United States in the new international atmosphere of political detente. We are thankful to the mass media of the West and the U.S. Congressmen for their judgment.

But the U.S. Administration must review its policy. It should pay attention to the public opinion of its own country, if not to our people's, to that of the region, if not to that of the world. Otherwise, it will soon totally lose its achievement, as it has already been doing over the past 6 months. It wanted to turn Afghanistan into a Vietnam for the Soviets [passage indistinct] with the supply of such weapons of mass destruction, Afghanistan will become the second Vietnam for America.

[Iranian correspondent] Mr President, in view of the efforts made for the improvement of relations between Iran and Pakistan, please [passage indistinct] what number of Iranians are held prisoner in Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] There is no doubt that the situation in southwest Asia and in our region is tense. Fortunately, on the grounds of the recent developments and events, especially in bilateral relations [passage indistinct] there have been positive changes from the Afghan side and

from other sides. Undoubtedly these positive changes will have positive effects on understanding, dialogue, and negotiations and the expansion and consolidation of friendly relations between Afghanistan and Iran. We are optimistic. We appreciate it and we hope for its practical results. As for your second question, we have been contacted by some official sources of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We had already freed a number of Iranian prisoners and we released another group which was still in our prisons. There are no more people with us. We told them that if they have a specific address they should give it to us so that we can look for them. There is complete goodwill in this respect. Rest assured.

[Question] A Kuwaiti reporter has asked whether negotiations for the resolution of the situation around Afghanistan are conducted between you and the opposition in the capitals of some Middle East countries.

[Najibullah] Yes they are. I think there are no more questions. Thank you for your attention.

IRNA: USSR Delivers New 'Scud' Missiles

LD1809111789 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 18, IRNA—Moscow has delivered two new types of long and medium-range Scud missiles to Kabul regime recently, the mujahidin sources in Kabul disclosed to the media Sunday.

According to the sources the missiles have capability of destroying targets within a range of 8 to 800 kms.

The medium-range missiles have reportedly been stationed at Khuja Rawash [name as received] airport, east of Kabul, 8th division of Afghan Army in Qarghah and the 19th Rocket Regiment Headquarters in Kabul.

The long-range missiles have been stationed at strategic Dehdadi [name as received] air base in Mazar-e Sharif.

A full regiment of Scud has been deployed at Dehdadi air base. The mujahidin sources said adding that commander of the Scud regiment, Khan Bahadir from Paktia Province, was killed by the mujahidin during an attack at the Scud base in Tapa e Tajbeck [name as received], Kabol Province.

'Massive' Soviet Convoy Arrives in Qandahar

BK1609001889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Qandahar, Afghanistan, Sept 15 (AFP)—A massive Soviet resupply convoy started arriving in this southeastern city Friday to a rousing welcome and rebel rocket explosions.

Western journalists flown here saw the arrival of some 100 trucks, part of a 30-kilometre (18-mile) long 1,300-vehicle caravan.

Garrison troops and small children tossed flowers and garlands at the first dusty drivers and escorting tanks.

The late afternoon welcome ceremony was marred by two mujahidin rockets apparently aimed at the welcoming team. One landed near the roadside and another in a nearby village, sending civilians fleeing.

The plane carrying the journalists back to Kabul carried a coffin and several wounded.

Military sources here said the convoy is carrying enough supplies to last the garrison for a year.

It set out about three weeks ago from the Soviet border town of Torgundi 700 kilometres (437 miles) from here for a journey much of which went through territory occupied by the mujahidin resistance, the sources said.

General Nur Ul Haq Ulumi, governor of Qandahar, was among the welcomers and said one of the reasons the convoy had taken so long was that it had detoured south through the desert rather than take the western approach to the city.

Earlier, the journalists had been flown to the sandy desert wastes south of Qandahar by helicopter to watch another 100 trucks, most of them fuel tankers, zig-zag over sand dunes under heavy tank escort.

The tactic had been widely used by Soviet forces to avoid ambush and mines before they withdrew from Afghanistan in February.

General Ulumi denied mujahidin claims that more than 100 vehicles, including tanks, had been knocked out by the resistance.

He said several vehicles had broken down and one tank had been destroyed by an old land mine.

The southern detour had lengthened the convoy's travelling distance to 1,000 kilometers (625 miles), he said, denying that bomber support had been used.

"We used helicopters for resupply, but not fixed wing air cover," he said, adding that the whole caravan consisted of 800 military trucks, 300 civilian trucks and an armed brigade.

The journalists saw only military vehicles, some of them partially empty and all brand new, and Gen. Ulumi said some supplies had been dropped off at various cities along the route from Torgundi.

The mujahidin, he said, had rocketted the route after the town of Grishki but had not succeeded in knocking out any vehicles.

The general declined to give the arrival timetable for the remainder of the trucks, saying they were coming in separate groups.

Supply Convoy Arrives in Qandahar From Herat

LD1509164889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A major supply convoy of essential goods for the people which left Herat Province for Qandahar Province a while ago, recently arrived in Qandahar City. The BIA military section reports that in addition to supplies, this convoy has also provided essential goods to the peace-loving people of Nimruz, Helmand and Farah Provinces. It should be pointed out that this major convoy [words indistinct] passed through these provinces and arrived in Qandahar Province.

Mujahidin Claim Anti-Afghan 'Striking Force' formed

LD1709150289 Tehran IRNA in Englishd 1443 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Peshawar, Sep. 17, IRNA—A Soviet striking force consisting of 5,000 commandoes has been formed to prevent Afghan mujahidin from infiltrating Soviet territory and help Afghan Government troops, if necessary, in northern Afghanistan, sources close to mujahidin revealed.

The sources said the deputy commander of Soviet troops based in southern Soviet Union has been appointed as commander of the striking force.

Meanwhile, the media news agency affiliated to the mujahidin interim government today accused Moscow of helping the Kabul regime recapture Zibak township seized by the mujahidin three weeks ago and of providing air support for a large military convoy which recently arrived in Qandahar.

Kabul Rounds Up Military Operations 17 Sep

LD1709163189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] An authoritive Armed Forces source reported to the BIA military section that the heroic Armed Forces units and companies stationed in Khowst District are mainly engaged in equipping and strengthening their previous defense line and have attacked, under crushing blows of artillery and rocket attacks, the warmongering armed extremists' resistance positions in retaliation for their attacks. As a result, 50 of these warmongers were killed and 89 others were injured. A vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition belonging to the enemy was destroyed. The source added that in the course of these combat operations additional losses were also inflicted on the warmongers and that the units and companies stationed in Khowst are fulfilling their patriotic duties with a high combat ability.

The source also added that the Armed Forces units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province have strengthened their defense positions and lines and have taken, under artillery and air strikes, the fire positions of the warmongering extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. As a result, 25 of them were killed and 31 were injured, and 12 heavy weapons of the enemy were seized by Armed Forces. A vehicle carrying arms and ammunition and a logistic depot belonging to them were destroyed. A number of units and companies carried out mopping up operations and ambushes in the region of Sorkh Rud and Chahar Bagh-e Safa village. As a result 231 shells of recoilless guns, missiles and a rocket launcher and mortars were seized.

According to another report, armed extremists and Pakistani militarists fired with heavy weapons on the security posts of Tor Kotal and (?Ma Khan) in Qandahar Province. The Armed Forces units and companies in that area attacked the enemy positions, carried out mopping up operations, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

The main highways of the country are open to traffic.

Government Forces Close In on Spin Boldak

BK1709004089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1922 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Sept 16 (AFP)—Afghan Government forces are closing on the mujahidin-held border town of Spin Boldak in the southeast of the country, sources close to the resistance guerrillas said here Saturday [16 September].

The troops were attached to a massive supply column of 1,000 vehicles that split up at the approach to Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city.

Journalists in the city said about 100 trucks from the convoy had reached the city on Friday.

Part of the convoy headed south crossed the Registan Desert and arrived close to Spin Boldak, one of the main guerrilla rear bases located some 10 kilometres (six miles) from the border with Pakistan, sources in this city on the other side of the border said.

Two separate columns had breached the districts of Serah Chahan and Tongai, located less than 50 kms (30 miles) southwest of Spin Boldak, and were directly threatening the base.

Some sources said more than 300 government vehicles were in the area.

"They've taken us by surprise and are going to attack Spin Boldak," a rebel commander said.

Most mujahidin fighters in the southern area have taken up positions around Qandahar more than 100 kms (60 miles) to the north in a bid to stop the rest of the convoy reaching the city and resupplying the beleaguered government forces.

Mujahidin Capture Camp Near Qandahar Airport

BK1709084089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured an army camp in the eastern part of Qandahar airport, where the Kabul troops fled away without resistance. AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS says the mujahidin attacked the army camp at (Abdullah Karez) on Thursday last [14 September, and after an hour-long battle obtained the control of the camp. They also seized a sizable quantity of arms and ammunition. The agency said the entire territory lying in the east of Qandahar airport is now controlled by the mujahidin.

And in Parvan Province, the mujahidin are reported to have destroyed seven military posts located between Charikar and Jabal os Saraj, about 13 km off the Salang Highway.

Meydan Commanders Ask Kabul Troops To Surrender

BK1609081489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin commanders in Meydan area are reported to have given a warning to the Kabul regime troops to surrender before the beginning of a major offensive by mujahidin for the liberation of the area.

The Islamic council of the northern areas has joined the mujahidin ranks for (?further) maximum coordination in the fighting activities. In an interview, a mujahidin leader has described the development as a great step in coordinating the endeavors of mujahidin for the liberation of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Cuts Off All Routes to Ghazni

BK1609153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have cut off all routes to Ghazni and these routes are now under the control of the mujahidin. Mujahidin sources say that the Kabul regime can send supplies to its forces only by plane during the night. Sources say the mujahidin are tightening the siege around the city and the Kabul regime forces are confined within an area of only 10 km. The mujahidin also destroyed a radar station recently set up by the Kabul regime on a mountain peak near the tomb of Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi. They also carried out a rocket attack on Ghazni airport, setting the airport on fire.

Armed Clashes Continue in Zabol Province

LD1609212989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] In continuation of armed clashes between the extremist groups of Golbuddin and Rabani, recently heavy clashes have taken place among the both rival groups in some areas of Shar-e Safa district, Zabol Province. The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of these clashes nine persons from the groups were killed, including (Mula Mohammad), a ringleader of the Rabani group, and four others were badly injured.

As a result of armed clashes which took place between the extremist groups of Golbuddin and Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi yesterday in some regions of Alishing district, Laghman Province, three persons from the both sides were badly injured. These clashes are still continuing.

Khowst, Nangarhar Armed Clashes Continue

LD1509153389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A competent source from the Armed Forces told BIA's military section that the heroic subunits of the country stationed in Khowst major district are continuously strengthening their previous defensive positions and are repulsing attacks by the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis with high morale and combat preparedness.

Rocket and artillery strikes killed 70 enemies and injured 17. Two Pakistanis were among those killed. During these military operations several of the enemy's heavy weapons, one tank, and one ammunition depot were destroyed.

The subunits [words indistinct] are accomplishing their duties heroically.

The source added that Armed Forces units and subunits stationed in Nangarhar Province are, as usual, strengthening their positions and defensive capability.

They have also subjected the enemy's firing positions to crushing blows in retaliation for heavy weapons strikes by the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. As a result of air raids and artillery strikes, 19 enemies were killed and 31 injured. A number of the enemy's heavy weapons, one motor vehicle carrying weapons, ammunition, and one ammunition depot were destroyed.

The situation is generally calm in the rest of the country.

Preparations for Attack

LD1609175989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] A competent source from the armed forces reported to the BAKHTAR military section that the courageous subunits of the armed forces stationed in Khowst major district are still in their previous defensive positions and from these positions are repulsing enemy attacks with courage.

The armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahabis have carried out heavy weapon shellings on the subunit's positions. In retaliation the subunits have

inflicted crushing blows on the enemy positions. As a result of crushing air raids and rocket blows, 47 enemies, including four Pakistanis—one an officer—were killed, 86 people were injured, and two units of reactif rockets and several heavy weapons were destroyed.

The subunits stationed in Khowst, while strengthening their defensive positions, are fully prepared for probable attacks by the enemy.

The source added that the armed extremists and Pakistani militarists shelled some security posts in Qandahar with heavy weapons. In retaliation the enemy's hideouts were shelled by the subunits of the armed forces, killing 15 and injuring a number of the enemies. During this operation five members of the subunits and five residents were injured.

The source added that a subunit of Herat forces, in coordination with a (Sarnadoy) subunit and a subunit from the Ministry of State Security, have carried out a mopping-up operation in Robat-e Sangi-ye bala, Koshk region, and thus have cleared the region of the armed extremists.

The source added that the units and subunits stationed in Nangarhar Province, as before, are generally engaged in strenthening their positions and they have also carried out some successful mopping-up operations in Nangarhar Province, including in Sorkh Rud and (Shykhmisri) areas.

The joint enemy forces have carried out heavy weapon shellings from the direction of Samar Khel, Chaprahar, and Behsud regions at the positions of the subunits and security posts. In retaliation with artillery and air-raids, five heavy weapons and two motor-vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition belonging to the armed extremists and Pakistani militarists were destroyed.

Mujahidin Attack Shindand Garrison, Air Base

BK1509153089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have attacked the Kabul forces near Charikar, the headquarters of Parvan Province, destroying two military tankers and two trucks loaded with missiles and bombs.

According to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, the mujahidin have also launched a large-scale attack on Shindand Garrison and the air base. Shindand City is already under the mujahidin's control. Correspondents say that to save the Shindand air base, one of the three major air bases, the Kabul regime will have to bring in a large number of Army troops from Herat, but the mujahidin have blocked all routes.

As already reported, the mujahidin have blocked the strategic Salang Highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union, thereby disrupting movement of Kabul forces and the dispatch of supplies from the Soviet Union.

Wakil Leaves for UN General Assembly

LD1609180489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan this morning left Kabul to take part in the 44th UN General Assembly in New York. Sulayman La'eq, minister of Tribal Affairs, a number of officials of the Foreign Ministry and the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul saw off the foreign minister at Kabul International airport.

Friday Prayers Condemn Extremists' Attacks

LD1609064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 15, Bakhtar: Preaches and imams of the congregational mosques in Kabul city, spoke about the unity, ensurance of peace, protection of rights and public properties during Friday prayer here today.

BAKHTAR correspondents report that according to the principles of Islam, the speakers asked the pious people of Afghanistan to take active part in establishment of peace and national compromise in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The reports add that the prayers also prayed for the solidarity and ensurance of a nation-wide peace in the war-stricken country of the Afghans.

According to another report, elders and chieftans and tribal representatives of Paktia Province, members of the Defence Council, state and party workers as well as a large number of members of social organisations of that province in their today's gathering, strongly condemned the continuous rockets attacks of the U.S.- Pakistani backed extremists against the civilian targets.

The participants of the gathering expressed their solidarity with the residents of Khowst grand-district bravely defending their homeland.

At the end they issued solidarity messages addressed to the citizens of Khowst as well.

Hekmatyar on Withdrawal From Afghan Government

BK1609111189 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Sep 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] Peshawar, Sept. 2—Hezb-e Eslami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has said his party had suspended its membership of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) not because it sought its dissolution, but only to highlight its protest at the delay in holding elections for a strong and representative government.

He was addressing a condolence meeting held at Shamshatoo camp near Peshawar for the 160 Hezb-e Eslami Mujahidin and supporters, who were allegedly killed in attacks by Jamiat-e Eslami commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Badakhshan province recently. A Hezb-e

Eslami press release said thousands of refugees and Mujahidin attended the prayers to remember the Badakhshan martyrs, who included women and childen.

The press release didn't address Hekmatyar as the Interim Government Foreign Minister now that his party has decided to suspend participation of its three ministers in the cabinet meetings.

Mr. Hekmatyar bitterly criticised Interim Government President Prof. Mojaddedi for his "hypocritical" role during the recent Hezb-Jamiat strife, and accused him of fuelling the flames of war instead of extinguishing them. He reminded that Hezb-e Eslami had agreed to join the interim government on the condition that it would hold polls for an elected shura within six months. He said his party would resume its activities in the interim government once the elections were held.

Without naming Iran, he criticised it for seeking quota for a particular sect in the Mujahidin government, and said it amounted to interference in Afghanistan's affairs. He argued that Sunnis had never demanded any specific percentage of government positions.

The Hezb-e Eslami chief expressed his strongest critism for Prof. Rabbani's Jamiat-e Eslami and its most famous commander Mas'ud. He accused Jamiat of seeking material support from both Soviets and Kabul regime and Western advisers in a bid to harm Hezb-e Eslami, especially in northern Afghanistan. He claimed an international plot had been hatched to weaken the Hezb as it had rejected both Moscow and the Western powers.

He criticised Prof. Rabbani for declaring war against Hezb after the Takhar incident and taking pride on the arrest of Hezb commander Sayed Jamal Agha. He alleged that Sayed Jamal was arrested with the connivance of a pro-Kabul militia commander Samad, nicknamed as Samadov. He also alleged that Jamiat was infested with Settem-e Meli activists. It may be added that Settem-e Meli is a leftist, anti-Pashtoon party.

Mr. Hekmatyar warned that the situation would become grave if Jamiat continued to attack Hezb bases. He said his party would pay back in the same coins if Jamiat didn't stop fighting and release Hezb Mujahidin.

Najibullah Greets Seminar on Regional Conflict

LD1509204489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Message from President Najibullah to participants in international seminar on role of the mass media in resolving regional conflicts, issued in Kabul on 15 September]

[Excerpts] I want first of all to express my satisfaction at the holding of an international seminar which is devoted to the important issue of assessing the role of the mass media in resolving regional conflicts. [passage omitted]

This seminar is being held at a time when our country, Afghanistan, is going through the most difficult and sensitive stage of its history.

Despite the signing of the Geneva Accords, the withdrawal of Soviet troops, and the defeat of the doctorine of military victory in Afghanistan, still the fire of war burns in this suffering country. [passage omitted]

In connection with resolving the Afghan issue, two ideas have formed inside and outside the country. One is the policy of continuation of war and achievement of victory by military means, and the other is the policy of resolving the issue by means of talks and compromise. [passage ocitted]

The Republic of Afghanistan, as before, is committed to its policy wi;th regard to reconciliation and national compromise. [passage omitted]

As in the contemporary world, the mass media are being transformed into an effective instrument to mobilize public opinion. Therefore, they will be able to play either a positive or a negative role in connection with the resolving of regional conflicts.

I am sure that all the journalists and personnel of the mass media in our country and in the world who are committed to the cause of peace, progress, and democracy on our planet, will wholeheatedly fulfill their historic mission in order to contribute to a speedy political and peaceful solution of the issue in and around Afghanistan and in order to end this very lengthy and harsh regional conflict. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Pakistan's Reentry Into Commonwealth Welcomed

BK1609155089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Bangladesh has welcomed Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh has consistently urged the member states to agree on the proposal of Pakistan rejoining the Commonwealth. He said the Government of Pakistan has conveyed to Bangladesh its thanks and appreciation for its stand on the issue.

Policemen Injured by Bomb During Student Strike

BK1709081689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 17 (AFP)—Two policemen were injured in a bomb blast here Sunday [17 September] at the start of a half-day strike called by an opposition student group to protest campus violence that has claimed six lives in one month, witnesses said.

They said unidentified people lobbed a crude bomb at a police outpost near the Dhaka University campus, injuring the two policemen.

They were being treated at the police hospital, a police official said.

Schools and shops were closed, the streets were virtually empty apart from trishaws, and paramilitary and armed police were on patrol, witnesses said.

They said activity in government and other offices was subdued Sunday, a regular working day in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The strike by the Sangrami Chatro Jote, led by the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia, also called for resignation of the "autocratic" regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, punishment of those involved in the recent killings of JCD workers and release of jailed JCD leaders and supporters.

The dawn-to-noon work stoppage was the first this year by students in four major cities of Bangladesh, following continued clashes among rival student groups. No specific reason for the incidents has been established.

Mr Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, said Saturday at a public meeting outside Dhaka: "Politics and violence must be removed from the campus to save the country" and called on teachers, parents and students to make educational institutions free from politics.

He added: "We do not send our dear children to schools to return as dead bodies."

Mr Ershad dissolved his ruling Jatiya Party's student wing in 1986 saying it would help restore peace on the campus, and urged other political groups to follow suit.

The strike was also being observed peacefully in the cities of Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna, according to reports reaching here.

'Huge' Coal Deposit Found in Rangpur District

BK1609160089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] A huge reserve of quality coal has been found in village Madankhali of Pirganj Upazila [subdistrict] in Rangpur District. According to a Geological Survey Department official, the coal was found in 950 feet below the ground level covering an area of about 50 square miles with an estimated quantum of some thousand million tons which might meet the total national requirement for 100 years.

India

First India-China Commission Meeting Opens

BK1809090189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The first meeting of the India-China joint commission is being held in New Delhi later today. It will explore areas of cooperation in trade and economic fields and also in science and technology.

The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, is leading the Indian team, while the Chinese delegation will be headed by the minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Zheng Tuobin.

Opening Remarks

BK1809132389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] India and China have expressed a keen desire to expand bilateral trade and strengthen economic and technical cooperation. The views of the two sides were conveyed at the first Indo-Chinese joint commission meeting, which began in New Delhi this afternoon.

In their opening remarks, the heads of the two delegations—the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh; and the Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Zheng Tuobin—called for consolidating the already improved political and economic ties between the two countries. They also wanted India and China to work in coordination at multilateral trade negotiations for achieving a just economic order.

Pakistan Ambassador Notes Improvement in Relations

BK1609081289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The Pakistan ambassador to India, Mr Niaz Naik, has said that the return of a democratically elected government in his country is the single biggest factor which has helped to improve Indo-Pakistan relations. Speaking at a panel discussion in New Delhi, Mr Naik said this has resulted in a number of meetings between the prime ministers of the two countries besides talks at various levels to facilitate the resumption of the dialogue. In this context, he mentioned three agreements on cultural exchanges, avoidance of double taxation, and the assurance not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. Mr Naik said the personal rapport established between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Benazir Bhutto and the political willingness to settle issues is contributing tremendously to the climate of change.

Afghan Rebels Accused of Assisting Militants

BK1709005089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] New Delhi, Sep 16 (AFP)—A senior leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party

Saturday [16 September] said mujahidin rebels from Afghanistan were helping Muslim militants in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

K.N. Singh, general secretary of the Congress (I), was quoted by PTI as saying that the Muslim militants, whose violent campaign for the independence of Jammu and Kashmir has left some 50 killed this year, were being helped by the mujahidin.

Mr. Singh said that the state government "is quite alive to deal with the situation sternly."

He was speaking in Jammu, winter capital of the only Muslim-majority Indian state, which is ruled by the regional National Conference Party in alliance with the Congress (I).

Sikh Chief Priest Resigns Following Criticism

BK1509161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The head priest of the Akal Takht, Professor Darshan Singh, is reported to have tend his resignation from his post. According to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] the unexpected move of Professor Darshan Singh followed criticism from various quarters over his decision to postpone a protest rally.

Talking to newsmen in Amritsar today, the head priest of Akal Takht said that he is resigning his post to enable the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak, Sikh temples managament committee] to select a suitable candidate. The agency message says this is the second time in 2 years that Professor Darshan Singh expressed his desire to quit the Akal Takht seat after he assumed charge in 1987.

'Terrorists,' Others Killed in Violence in Punjab

BK1509144889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Punjab, 5 terrorists and 14 other persons have been killed in separate incidents since last evening. Two terrorists were killed in Makhu area in Ferozepur District last evening. Another terrorist was killed in Jullundhur District and two in an encounter in (Sarzulgarh) area of Bhatinda District.

Meanwhile, terrorists gunned down eight members of the family of a farmer in village Rasulpur in Ferozepur District and two brothers in village (Talwandi Gurraya) in Gurdaspur District. In Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead two farmers in Village Burala, another farmer in Village Mahmudpur, and a woman in Village (Sandhram).

Delhi TV Report

BK1609164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Two hard-core terrorists have been killed in separate encounters in the Punjab. Fresh incidents have claimed another 12 lives, and a 4-year-old son of a Tarn Taran superintendent of police has been kidnapped. One of the terrorists killed today was identified as Dalvir Singh alias Diki. His capture carried a reward of 50,000 rupees. The self-styled area commander of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force was killed last night in an encounter with security forces in Hoshiarpur District. The police officer's son, Vesraj, was kidnapped this morning in Faridkot District while he was going to school in a ricksha. The child was kidnapped by three persons who came in a car. Later, killed by terrorists two separate incidents, one in Jullundur District and the other in Gurdaspur District. [sentence as heard] The bodies of the five people were recovered by police this morning.

Six intruders from across the international border were shot dead by the BSF [Border Security Force] in the Tarn Taran sector of Amritsar District.

In Amritsar District, two CRPF jawans [Central Reserve Police Force soldiers] were seriously wounded in a land mine explosion in the village Vishowa. The incident occurred when a jeep carrying them hit the land mine. The vehicle was badly damaged. In another incident, three hard-core terrorists were arrested after an encounter with the security forces in Amritsar District.

Terrorists Shoot 2 Policemen

BK1709031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead two policemen in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists struck in village Chang under Mehta police station and shot dead an assistant subinspector of police and a constable.

As already reported, terrorists kidnapped the 4-year-old son of the superintendent of police operations, from Tarn Taran town of Amritsar District yesterday. The child was going to school with his sister, when some car-borne terrorists forcibly took him away.

Youth Leader Killed

BK1809091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] In Punjab, the newly elected secretary of the youth wing of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India—Marxist], Mr Sohan Singh Desi, was shot dead by terrorists at village Khangnadesian in Jullundur District early this morning. According to agency reports, the youth leader was elected the secretary of the Democratic Youth Federation of India only yesterday.

The Haryana police have arrested seven Pakistan-trained terrorists involved in 2 dozen killings in Punjab and Haryana in an encounter in Kurukshetra last night. The encounter, which lasted an hour, followed a tip off that Pakistani trained terrorists were planning major killings at several places in Punjab and Kurukshetra.

Nine Killed in Police Firing in Tamil Nadu

BK1709165089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpt] There are reports of fresh violence from the troubled Madurai District of Tamil Nadu. Nine people were killed when police opened fire in three different places—Kandamanur, Bodinaickanur, and Theni. With this the death toll in the violence, which erupted yesterday, has gone up to 18.

Five people were killed at Kandamanur when police opened fire today to quell mob violence. Four persons were killed in Bodinaickanur. No casualty has, however, been reported from Theni.

Nine people were killed and 20 others injured in violent clashes between the two groups near Madurai yesterday. Police said seven persons were killed in (Tegeran) village in yesterday's exchange of fire by two groups. Two persons were killed in a similar clash last night in Konnur village. Two persons, including a 10-year-old child, were accidentally run over by a police jeep last night at Theni. A crowd attacked the jeep in which a deputy superintendent of police was going for bandabast [preparation] duty. Three constables were injured.

Police said groups of people went about setting fire to shops and thatched houses in several places in the troubled areas. A police van was set on fire at (Palali Choti Patty). The situation is being described as tense, but well under control. [passage omitted]

Death Toll at 21

BK1809033289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, death toll in group clashes in Bodinaickanur and Theni areas in Madurai District has gone up to 21. According to an official spokesman the situation in the area is tense but under control. Bus services in the affected areas are still suspended. Police sources say the clashes have spread to a few more villages.

The Tamil Nadu Government has requested the center to send six companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] to assist the state police in maintaining law and order in the area. Stating this, the chief secretary of the state, Mr M.M. Rajendran, said that two companies of Kerala Special Armed Police are already on their way to the affected areas. The state government has asked for two more companies from Kerala.

3 Killed, 18 Injured in Group Clashes in Madurai

BK1609124489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, 3 persons are feared killed and 18 injured in clashes between two groups near (Borinai-kannur) in Madurai District early this morning. Senior officials have rushed to the spot. Briefing newsmen in Madras today, the chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi said this followed a provocative speech made by a leader of a group against the other at a public meeting recently. He warned that stern action will be taken against those who make inflammatory speeches instigating people for violence.

Gandhi Urges Press To Play Role in Nation

BK1809095089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister today urged the press to play a major role in nation building and address itself to the basic and critical issues like communalism. Mr Gandhi said communalism poses a great threat to the unity of the country. He said the talk like changing the nation into a Hindu rashtra [nation] will break the unity of the country. Mr Gandhi was speaking at a function in New Delhi today to celebrate the golden jubilee of the ASSAM TRIBUNE. The prime minister said that the nation is now passing through a critical phase of its development. There is a need to be strong within and to end conflicts and confrontation internally. The prime minister categorically denied the opposition charge that some central agencies are responsible for the Bodo agitation in Assam. Mr Gandhi released a commemorative volume on the occasion about the history of the ASSAM TRIBUNE.

Minister Briefs Committee on National Issues

BK1509160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has reiterated the government's determination to maintain communal harmony and hoped that all contending parties in the Ram Janam Bhumi-Babri Masjid dispute [where Hindu and Muslim communities claim ownership to a shrine in Uttar Pradesh] will abide by the court orders and not disturb the status quo. He was addressing the consultative committee meeting members of Parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi today.

Mr Buta Singh said the five suits pending in the district court of Faizabad had been withdrawn and a consolidated case has been filed in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. A three-member bench has already been constituted to hear the case. The minister said the court in its order last month has directed the parties to the suit to maintain the status quo and not change the nature of the property in question.

The committee members in an unanimous resolution appealed to all sections of the people, particularly to the

parties to the Ram Janam Bhumi-Babri Masjid dispute, not to take any step which may endanger communal harmony or do anything to impair and lower the dignity and efficacy of the judicial process. They appealed that the court orders directing the parties to the suit to maintain the status quo should be strictly adhered to.

Referring to the Bodo [tribal] agitation in Assam, Mr Buta Singh said the problem should not be viewed as a purely law and order issue, but be sorted out by the state government through negotiations. The minister reiterated that the center is against the division of Assam and offered all assistance in solving the problem in a peaceful manner.

Mr Buta Singh said the center has taken the initiative to defuse the tension created by the Jarkhand issue [of Bihar tribals demanding separate state within India]. Discussions have been held with the representatives of Jarkhand Movement.

Expressing his concern over the leftwing extremism in certain parts of the country, particulary Andhra Pradesh, the minister regretted that the state government has not attended to the problem in a coordinated and planned manner.

About the activities of subversive elements in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Buta Singh said the state government is trying its best to deal with the situation in an effective manner. He appealed to all political parties to extend full cooperation to the state government to counter the antinational activities of subversive elements. Mr Buta Singh strongly condemned the killing of a senior BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] leader in Srinagar yesterday.

The ministers of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, and Mr Santosh Mohan Dev , also attended the meeting.

Television Transposer Commissioned in Rajasthan

BK1709020289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] A new television transposer has been commissioned in (?Bhilwara) District in Rajasthan. The 10-watt transposer is the first of its kind in India. The union minister of finance, Mr S.B. Chavan, inaugurated the transposer this morning. The commissioning of the equipment will help in amplifying programs telecast from Jaipur and will effectively have a cover range of 15 km.

Iran

Leaders Address Gathering of IRGC Commanders

Khamene'i Message Delivered

LD1709133489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The large gathering of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] commanders from throughout the country began work this morning in Tehran's Azadi Stadium, opening with a message from his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The opening ceremony of the annual gathering was attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Major General Zahi-Nezhad, the leader's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; and IRGC Commander Reza'i, the person in charge of the mobilization of the oppressed and the person in charge of the organization of the selfless devotees [war disabled] of the Islamic Revolution. According to the Central News Unit, the leader's message addressed to the gathering was read by Nuri, the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the IRGC, Reconstruction Jihad and the Interior Ministry. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brothers, honorable commanders, and officials of the IRGC and the mobilization of the oppressed. [passage omitted]

(?The duty of) jihad in the path of God, albeit in a form which is not clear as the period of war, but with the same difficulties nonetheless, and perhaps with greater delicacy, falls upon all of us. During this period, jihad for those who are in the armed forces, or who are affiliated with them, has distinct requirements.

First, the maintenance of spiritual preparedness for defending the revolution, the country, and the Islamic Republic system. In the words of his holiness the prophet, may God's peace be upon him and his scion: He who is not on the battlefield or who does not, in his heart and soul, consider jihad incumbent upon him, will depart from this world in a state of discord.

As the great deceased imam said: We are serious about our policy of achieving peace in the framework of the Security Council Resolution, and we will never be the first to undermine it.

Nevertheless, the maintenance of preparedness in a variety of ways, especially spiritual preparedness for a selfless defense of Islam and the revolution, is the most precious pearl facing you and all armed forces today. The IRGC, the mobilization of the oppressed, and the army must maintain that preparedness at its highest level, and they must not allow the slightest weakness to mar their strong resolve. I stress especially for all mobilization of the oppressed forces, that their separation from their organization, that is the IRGC, must never be cut off from the military defense agenda or be drowned in personal or occupational life. The vitality of their experience depends on maintenance, at the highest possible level, of their spiritual and organizational ties.

Second, the reinforcement of training and organizational preparedness. The IRGC and the army, each within the framework of its own special mission, must reinforce training, strengthen their organization, and maintain the preparedness of personnel and military equipment. There must be no weakness in bearing that great responsibility.

Now, a priceless wealth of military experience is at your disposal; it must be used to create greater preparedness. Of course, all dear ones must bear in mind that although the mission of the army and the IRGC is different in the long term, today everyone's decisive responsibility is to improve and strengthen the border defense lines. Each of the two organizations, each of their combat units, must consider a strong presence in border trenches more important than any other task or duty; they must not neglect that task for a moment.

Third, full cooperation and brotherly affection between IRGC and army brothers. The enemy, as a result of its total enmity, tries, by spreading rumors, to create divisions among our armed forces. Also, some friends, out of ignorance, sometimes believe rumors fabricated by the enemy. Sometimes the rumor about doing away with the army prevails; sometimes the rumor about eliminating the IRGC is current. Both kinds of remarks originate from the enemy or correspond to the enemy's interests.

I, in obedience to the esteemed imam and our deceased man of wisdom, say decisively: Both those organizations will remain strong and exist like two arms of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They will be strengthened. Each will have a mission different, yet complementary, to the mission of the other. The IRGC, apart from its combat mission, will also be responsible for organizing the formation, training, and mobilization of the 20 million-strong army.

The army and the IRGC, with mutual help and cooperation and constructive rivalry, will be able, as always, to create a strong front to face the enemies of Islam, the revolution, and the Islamic country and government and to answer any aggression with strengh, removing any thought of aggression from the enemy's mind.

In conclusion, addressing you dear commanders and managers of the IRGC, the mobilization of the oppressed, and every single combatant, I stress: The system of the Islamic Republic must have a defense and combat capability appropriate to its revolutionary aims and ideals. That can only be possible through your efforts and activities and through your maintenance of your morale and preparedness, you children of Islam and the imam. Place your trust in God, ask Him for assistance, pray to Him, confide in Him, and use all your efforts and strength in that bright path. God is with the faithful and with the believers.

I will be at your service and support you with all my strength, and God is the greatest support. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 17 September 1989

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks

LD1709134989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent at the IRGC meeting, after the reading of the message by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], Mohsen Reza'i, the IRGC commander, welcomed and thanked Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his efforts in commanding the crusaders of the path of God [Mojahedin fi sabil-allah] in the course of arduous battle conditions. He said: The presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani alongside the Islamic combatants during the imposed war was a source of encouragement, and we took refuge in him during the difficult war conditions.

Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke. He remarked on the good timing of the IRGC seminar, graciously saying: Now that we are on the threshold of the anniversary of the start of the imposed war, the time has come for us to review the war's events. The president added: The revolution's enemies waged the war with the clear intention of undermining the revolution. It was a war which exacted an exorbitant price from the people of the region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say: Even though the war inflicted great financial losses on us, causing lengthy delays in postrevolutionary reconstruction, as well as depriving us of a great section of our devoted and committed forces, nevertheless the test which our nation went through on its historical and Islamic mission, and the unprecedented historical resistance which it displayed vis-a-vis the entire forces of the global blasphemy, could be epic-making and invigorating for the future generations. Moreover, the tactical knowledge and the preparedness which we gained during the war makes those hardships worthwhile.

The president, remarking that we consider the outcome of the war positive and that the war served as a guarantee for our revolution, graciously remarked: In spite of the fact that obstacles can be placed in the path of our revolution at any instance or any day, our nation pursues its path under any conditions, and the Islamic soldiers will not forget their military duty as long as they live.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The world portrayed us as warmongers, accusing the IRI of propagating the Islamic Revolution to neighboring countries by intending to directly interfere in the affairs of those countries. However, in accepting the cease-fire, we proved that we were just as earnest as we were while resisting on the battle scene. Not a single violation has been committed by us since the day we accepted the cease-fire.

Regarding the reason behind the prolongation of the tripartite peace talks, the president said: Today, the entire world is learning that the Iraqi regime is being obstinate and persistant in order to gain concessions in Arvand-Rud [Shatt al-Arab]. But during the talks we will

demonstrate the same resistance shown during the war. Even if these talks continue for 10 years, or even end in a resumption of war, we will not budge an inch from our Islamic territory, and we will repel the enemy as far back as the limit stipulated in the 1975 Algiers Accord. If the enemy does not withdraw by its own will, we will certainly force them out.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while announcing that we have gained what we wanted from the war and that we have no need to resume the war, said: We have good will; we will allow the world to realize who the aggressor is and who is in the right. At the moment, we will definitely regain our territory. The revolution does not tolerate the occupation of its territory.

The president addressed the commanders of the guards, saying: If it were not for the Iraqi regime's obstinacy, a great many of you young ones would have been at the garrisons on training. This predicament is worse for the Iraqis than it is for us, since for Iraq, with its 14- or 15-million-strong population, the maintenance of such a great force at the front and behind the entrenchments is crushing, while our country, with a 50-million-strong population, does not have such pressure.

The president said: The responsibility of all these MIA's and POW's which exist in both countries, the plight of whom is not known by their families, is on the shoulders of the Iraqi regime, which is delaying the peace talks in vain.

Concluding his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the IRGC commanders and officials to maintain unity so as to increase their preparedness.

Khomeyni Urges Strength

LD1709192289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] During this morning's session of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC] commanders' assembly, amid an emotional response by the audience, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni reread last year's message to the assembly from His Emminence Imam Khomeyni.

In a short speech, the imam's son praised the Guards, Basij, and other armed forces personnel for their self-sacrifices during 8 years of the holy defense of the Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Calling on the armed forces to fortify the country's defensive strength and preserve their readiness to confront any conspiracies by the enemies of the revolution, he added: At present, utilizing the vast propaganda machinery at her disposal, the United States constantly suggests that there are some moderates in Iran who want to get close to the West, but that a number of hardliners are preventing this.

He stressed that the United States should know that despite its provocations there are not and never have been hardliners or moderates in Iran and that everyone is adamant on preserving the principles laid down by the imam, who said: The United States is the great satan. He stood firm by his word until the end and did not prefer the indignity of having ties with the United States to the glory of the Islamic revolution.

Karrubi on U.S. Relations

LD1709191189 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—One of the priorities of the first five-year plan is to boost the defensive power of the country, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi said today. "The Islamic Consultative Assembly resolutely supports the idea of equipping the armed forces with the latest technology," Hoj. Karrubi told the annual assembly of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here.

Hoj. Karrubi once again rejected establishment of any relations with the U.S. because of its aggressive nature. "There is a radical and ideological contradiction between Iran and the U.S., and we will not compromise with the U.S. to settle this contradiction." He said although Iran has never started a war and will not do so, the Islamic Republic is determined to equip its armed forces with advanced and powerful weaponry in the wake of the dangers threatening the Islamic revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the founder of the Islamic revolution, and Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri also addressed the gathering earlier in the morning.

Foreign Minister Velayati Names Deputies

LD1609162589 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 16 Sep 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today made some new appointments.

Manuchehr Mottaki was appointed his new deputy for international affairs. Mottaki was former Iranian ambassador to Ankara.

Abbas Maleki was appointed deputy foreign minister for education and research affairs. He was former Foreign Minister director general of international and political studies bureau.

Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian who was former head of Foreign Ministry's 15th Office was appointed director general for West European affairs.

Morteza Sarmadi keeping his post as Foreign Ministry spokesman, was appointed deputy foreign minister for communications.

Larijani on U.S. Attempts To Quash Revolution

LD1509170889 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—The main problem of the U.S. Administration with Iran is that Iran is the torch-bearer of an ideology which has shakened the entire Islamic world, a senior Iranian politician wrote in a letter to the afternoon daily ETTELA'AT published Thursday [14 September].

"The ordinary Americans call it Islamic fundamentalism, thereby implying some sort of fanaticism and backwardness," Mohammad Javad Larijani, an advisor to the Foreign Minister, said in the letter.

He said that the ordinary Americans are ignorant that this description is considered a positive one by the movement because nothing is better than reviving the brilliant foundations of the Islamic ideology.

Since the "Islamic fundamentalism" has taken the root of the U.S. political, economic and cultural domination in the Islamic countries, as its target, the Americans are after ways of extinguishing the torch of the Islamic revolution in Iran. To this end, Larijani said, American politicians want to make use of their past experiences such as in Nicaragua, Angola and Mozambique where they are applying a policy based on organising terrorist groups, making borders and cities of these countries insecure and exerting pressures—the American style moderation.

This same moderation has also been applied to the Chinese revolution, the Vietnam war, Korea, the Cuban Revolution and Libya, the letter said.

Larijani added that if 'American moderation' is the basis of the U.S. present attitude towards Iran, then their plans may probably be one of the following: they will try to slow down the implementation of the Resolution 598, but not stop it totally. This is to guarantee that there should be no state of peace between Iran and Iraq.

To this end some tension might surface at the Iran-Iraq borders. "International observer forces have already demonstrated that they can be asleep whenever necessary," said the letter.

Another option is that the U.S. will try to organise Iranian counterrevolutionaries inside Iraq and force them to attack Iran as part of a "tactic of attrition".

And finally the U.S. will try on one hand to harness Iraq and on the other hand turn it into the dominant power in the region, Larijani said. The American view is that under such circumstances irritation of Iran cannot start another full-scale war. Therefore, the only way to repulse such inroads would be to submit to 'moderation.'

"Had it not been for the heavy price that nations of the region—all of whom are Muslims, must pay, one would say let them try again. If Saddam's regime falls into this U.S. trap, definitely it will not come out of it safe," concluded the letter.

Roundtable Discusses Country's Financial Future

NC0109144189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Roundtable discussion with Alviri, chairman of the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee; Rowghani-Zanjani, head of the Planning and Budget Organization; and unidentified moderator]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear viewers. As you know, during the first meeting of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet, the 5-year plan was placed on the cabinet's agenda because of its significance. We have invited Mr Alviri, the esteemed chairman of the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee, and Mr Rowghani-Zanjani, the esteemed head of the Planning and Budget Organization, to attend this program. We thank them for accepting our invitation.

Mr Alviri, a 5-year plan was prepared for the years 1362-67 [1983-88] but was not approved by the Majlis. What was the reason for this?

[Alviri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There were three or four factors that led to the defeat of the 5-year plan which was submitted to the Majlis in 1362. One of the factors was the instability and imbalance in resources and expenditures. The bill that was presented to the Majlis at that time forecast an annual foreign exchange income of $24 billion. Even at that time some officials stated that $24 billion was too low and that this figure should be changed to $36 billion annually. The price of oil was high at that time. As far as I remember, it was between $28 and $30. However, this situation changed very rapidly. Oil prices fell around the world, and you know that between 1362 and 1366 [1983-87] oil prices plummeted from about $30 per barrel to about $5. The bombing of oil fields, refineries, pipelines, and Khark Island were all factors that acutely affected oil production, our country's major source of income. Unfortunately, our economy is still based on this one commodity.

Our expenditures also changed in relation to this unstable situation. One of our main expenditures was the war. We could not make precise calculations on the expenditures needed for the war. There were years when the war expenses were much higher than had been foreseen in the annual budget. Therefore, one of the major reasons officials could not formulate a comprehensive plan was the imbalance between resources and expenditures.

Another factor was the lack of sufficient information. Having correct information is what allows a plan to develop. At that time, we did not even have the most basic information necessary to put together a plan. One

example was population growth. At that time I was a member of the special committee formed to study the bill on the 5-year plan, and I remember how some officials said that the rate of population growth was about 2.7 to 2.8 percent, while others went as high as 4.5 percent. How can a plan work if there is such great disparity in the statistics on population growth, where even a .1 percent change makes a difference?

Another important factor that affected planning in the 1st decade of the revolution was a lack of faith in the efficacy of a plan among some officials. In other words, there were some people in positions of power who did not believe a plan should be drawn up. These people stated that our duty in an Islamic government and in the Islamic Republic was to concern ourselves with distribution and that the law on distribution would regulate everything, but that saying how much wheat should be cultivated in the country, what training workers should receive, and so on infringes on the areas where people should be free to act. Thank God, this view was defeated at that time, and there are no such views now. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] How does the current plan avoid the former's shortcomings?

[Alviri] Measures have been taken to deal with each factor I mentioned. Fortunately, the problem of resources and expenditures has been solved. In other words, our resources are now stable. We are not worried about the bombing and destruction of our resources now; there is stability now. Furthermore, many oil experts believe that there will be no major change in the price of oil. Our expenditures have stabilized now that the war, which was one of our major expenditures, has ended. There is the need for reconstruction now, but reconstruction will only have to be done once. We are not worried about the destruction of a refinery or the bombing of a generator. The cost of reconstruction for the damages suffered during the war is known. Therefore, both our expenditures and our resources are stable.

As for the information we lacked in the first plan, fortunately the Iranian Statistics Center carried out a census in 1355 [1976] [as heard] and major surveys of industry and agriculture. Thus, we have the necessary statistics and we can rely on them. We now know the exact rate of population growth and we can plan for the future in conformity with our policy.

As for the lack of faith in the idea of planning and programming we saw at one time, I can clearly state that all officials now have no doubts about the need for planning. Moreover, all officials want planning to begin as soon as possible.

What happened during the first reading of the bill in committee and continued during the second reading by the government, and especially by the Planning and Budget Organization and the economics committee, was the start of a coordination of efforts, unlike the case in the past when there was no coordination among the various branches.

Another point is the changes that have taken place in the executive branch. Those bottlenecks that existed in the Constitution and which created practical problems in implementation have been removed. Therefore, I think that the country is fully prepared for the implementation of a plan, which is a good plan because of the existence of sufficient information and the stability in resources and expenditures. Thus we have no cause for concern.

[Moderator] Mr Zanjani, some experts believe that instead of attempting to implement a comprehensive plan, it is better for us to make plans with one or two specific objectives. They point to the experience of other countries, of developed countries. For example, they note that Germany based its planning on measures to overcome unemployment in 1933, that the Soviet Union undertook a program to overcome electricity shortages in 1920, and that Japan's plan was based on the objective of doubling national income in 1959. What do you think of this and why do you prefer a comprehensive plan?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] [passage omitted] Actually, our plan concentrates on the country's key problems. However, solving these problems requires that everyone be mobilized. [passage omitted] We have granted priority to agriculture, but we can have dozens of objectives in the country. The officials, that is the Majlis and the policy-making council, have put forward a number of key objectives, which are all interlinked. [passage omitted] Therefore, we do have specific objectives in mind. To achieve them, however, all branches should regulate their activities on the basis of the priorities that form the general objective. [passage omitted]

Our country has the potential to achieve both the specific objectives and other goals. Your question may be on the possible difficulty in implementing the plan. This difficulty can be removed if the plan is realistic. If we do this, we will not face problems in implementing it. I think that this plan has the necessary realism.

[Moderator] As far as comprehensive planning is concerned, one important issue is the existence of uniformity among the various sectors in the country. For example, when the agricultural sector needs tractors, fertilizers, and experts, these needs should be met either by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Petroleum, or the universities. Some experts believe that this uniformity can be achieved only through complicated measures. Can the various sectors work together this way?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] The implementation of this plan depends on conditions like what you referred to as uniformity among the sectors. You are correct. Actually we tried to use this in the 5-year plan. A specific example of this can be seen in the agricultural sector. We have tried, for the first time, to regulate cooperation among the sectors. For example, the agricultural sector had

asked for $12 billion in foreign exchange. When we studied where this amount was to go to, we saw that about $7 billion concerned industrial products such as tractors and combines. Now there is a logical relationship between the objectives of the industrial sector and the agricultural sector. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] The 5-year plan deals with the political, social, economic, and cultural fields. What priorities were taken into consideration in deciding how income from foreign and domestic sources was to be allocated?

[Alviri] The method we used in the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee was different, to an extent, than the method used in the government bill. In the committee, we specified three or four sectors which we thought required priority attention, and we said that these sectors will receive as much foreign exchange and rials as they need to achieve the highest degree of development. These sectors are agriculture, water, oil and gas, and mines. These sectors were granted priority because they produce raw materials, can create jobs, and can generate foreign exchange earnings. On this basis, we thought of making these sectors our basis and studying how much manpower, rials, and foreign exchange must be used to achieve the highest level of growth and what laws had to be amended so that we can achieve this growth. After calculating the growth in these sectors, we will know our resources. We will be able to know what our foreign and domestic earnings will be. On the basis of our calculations, we can foresee a foreign exchange income of something more than $80 billion for the next 5 years, while the investments to be carried out by the private and public sectors will generate about 27 billion rials.

Thus, we granted priority to these four sectors and sought to facilitate their achieving the highest level of growth by providing all the necessary means and by mobilizing all forces. After this, we will distribute the remaining foreign exchange and rial resources among the other sectors in order to fulfill our objectives, which were stated in the first reading of the bill in the Majlis. These objectives are the strengthening of the defense structure; the growth of the economy to overcome economic dependence, harness inflation, and increase per capita income; efforts to establish social justice; and reforms in the country's administrative structure. These sectors will receive foreign exchange and rials after the four priority sectors I mentioned. In short, we will give full priority to these four sectors and provide them with the fullest opportunities for growth, and then deal with the other sectors. Decisions on this have been made, but discussions on allocations among the other sectors continue at the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee.

[Moderator] Mr Zanjani, some believe that, in Third World countries, planning should be based on manpower and they stress the need for extensive investment in education and scientific research. What is your view on this, and what investment in research centers, higher education, and technical and vocational training is foreseen under the 5-year plan?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] [passage omitted] To comment on the answer by Mr Alviri, I would like to say that in our priorities for allocating foreign exchange, we have taken oil as our basis because this product plays a significant role as far as our foreign exchange income is concerned. We have granted priority to oil. After ensuring the foreign exchange income of oil, we went on to agriculture and we regulated the distribution of foreign exchange by means of a complex mechanism. In other words, we cannot give one sector whatever it wants. It may not have the capability to absorb all this, or the rest of the country may not be able to do so, even though we would like to give it what it needs. We carried out a technical check of this and this made the compilation of the program more logical.

To answer to your question, which reflects the importance of other sectors in the plan, I should note that we will have approximately 500,000 university students. We have about 270,000 or 280,000 students now. The rate of growth will be slower than it has been in the past 5 years. In our strategy for this sector, we have concentrated more on improving quality and on specialization and doctoral degrees as a way of improving quality and further expanding education. This is the strategy we used in this sector. [passage omitted]

As for research centers, in view of the decisions adopted by the Economic Council, we have tried, to the best of our ability, to provide the resources needed for research, so much so that by the end of 1372 [1993], research will receive .6 percent of the gross national product. This figure is now about .2 percent, which is very low in view of the importance of research. However, the increase should be justified and not artificial. Research is an extremely complicated field which needs powerful experts. What we have in mind in the field of higher education will help research. Meanwhile, we have also foreseen the establishment of a center under the direct supervision of the president within the next 5 years. This center will be in charge of policymaking and programming and supervising the transfer of industrial and mining technology. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Alviri, if problems arise in the 5-year plan, such as a shortage of foreign exchange, since we know that our oil income is not regulated by us but by the international market, or other such problems, which sectors will receive priority and which will have their budgets cut?

[Alviri] In our studies in the committee, we have tried to base our planning on reliable information. We wanted to avoid repeating past mistakes by being too optimistic or making mistakes in our calculations. There was a time when they said that the price of oil would go up to $67, but suddenly we saw it fall sharply. The price that we have used is a low one. We have forecasts that oil prices will be between $28 and $30 in the next 5 years, but we did not take this as a basis. We have tried to study the views of experts at the Petroleum Ministry and Planning and Budget Organization and the reports we have

received from OPEC. Therefore, we believe we have projected a realistic foreign exchange income as far as possible. However, if something like what you said happens, we will act on the basis of the priorities that I stated previously. It is also likely that the committee will study ways of preventing other sectors from suffering because of fluctuations in our foreign exchange earnings.

In other words, even if our foreign exchange income does change, a number of programs which are considered strategic and significant will continue to receive the same amount of foreign exchange. Of course the committee has not yet adopted a decision on this, because one of the pending issues is for us to approve all the programs that are to be implemented within the 5-year period. But even if a decision is not adopted, we will at least decide on a series of programs which will play a basic role in our economic development and take measures to prevent them from suffering from fluctuations in our foreign exchange income. In other words, we will continue to provide the foreign exchange needed for these programs, even if there is a fluctuation in foreign exchange income.

[Moderator] Mr Zanjani, one of the goals of the 5-year plan is a move toward self-sufficiency in the agricultural, industrial, and other sectors. There are two views on self-sufficiency. For example, as far as agriculture is concerned, one view says that self-sufficiency means having production equal consumption. The other view is that a country can be considered self-sufficient if the value of its imports and exports is equal. On which one of these two views has our 5-year plan been based?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I would like to explain a few things to answer your question. Those who believe that self-sufficiency means that our foreign exchange income should be equal to our foreign exchange expenditure are generally correct. However, this does not guarantee our independence or make us invulnerable in the world economy. As a country with oil resources, the balance between our foreign exchange income and our foreign exchange expenditure has almost never been negative. We have even tried, by using our foreign exchange income, to make the balance of our foreign exchange positive. However, all of us know that we are vulnerable. We may have to add that this balance can be achieved and a logical balance reached in the international economy only when an economy is based not only on one product, but on several. However, if we take the agricultural sector in relation to the world economy as an example, because when we speak of self-sufficiency we mean self-sufficiency in relation to the world market, and say that the foreign exchange earned by exporting our agricultural products should be used to import from abroad, then we will have another meaning of self-sufficiency. [passage omitted]

In the 5-year plan, we have tried to increase the diversity of our sources of foreign exchange, even though the main source in our 5-year plan is oil. On the basis of what we have proposed to the government and the Majlis, 76 billion, plus 2 billion from gas exports, that is 78 billion of our income of 90 billion [currency not specified] is from oil and 12 billion from nonoil products. But nonoil exports will be doubled. In other words, our official annual exports now are $1 billion in nonoil products, and by the end of the 5-year plan, this figure will be $3 billion, that is three times what it is now [as heard]. This is part of our plan to diversify our sources of foreign exchange and lessen our dependence on oil. Of course, this will take some time. But tripling a figure also requires a strong executive power and good organization. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Alviri, we see that Mr Zanjani had to refer to oil. Our dependence on oil increases our vulnerability in the world market. Of course, he pointed out how we will, by expanding the other sectors, free ourselves from our dependence on oil. Have other plans been foreseen in the 5-year plan and, if so, what are they?

[Alviri] I would like to explain something about self-sufficiency. Our objective in the 5-year plan is not self-sufficiency, but self-reliance. A country is self-reliant when it can stand on its own feet even if all its borders are closed for 2 or 3 months. A country is self-sufficient when it can produce everything it needs itself, which is neither economical nor logical. For example, we have no need to expand the watch-manufacturing industry here, but we can expand our petrochemical industry because we have all the resources needed locally and it is an industry that existed before. We can import products if we would need to import the technology to manufacture them ourselves or if it would not be economical for us to manufacture them ourselves. Therefore, as far as expanding exports or import substitution is concerned, we believe that we should move toward self-reliance. This is what Mr Zanjani pointed to. In other words, we should become self-sufficient as far as strategic products are concerned so that we can stand on our own feet. But our slogan will never be one of wanting to produce everything locally. No. We will concentrate on those products with which our society is familiar, the raw materials for which exist locally, and for which we have or can easily acquire the technology. With the foreign exchange we earn, we will then be able to import other products.

As for what you said about our dependence on oil, if we use the petrodollars to pay expenses, then what you said is correct. In other words, if we use a given amount of foreign exchange for staple products 1 year and then increase this amount the next year and then suddenly realize that we are taking the petrodollars and turning them into imported wheat, imported rice, and imported meat, then yes, this can be calamitous. But if we have a program and invest the petrodollars on projects that will free us from the need for petrodollars in the future or that will produce foreign exchange, then this will not be the case. If we invest the petrodollars in the Mobarekeh steel plant so it can produce 2.4 tonnes of steel sheets, then we will naturally not need to use petrodollars to buy sheets from abroad. Or if we use these petrodollars to make our petrochemical industry operational or increase

oil byproducts in such a way so that not only will we no longer have to import them, but we can gradually begin exporting oil byproducts instead of crude oil, then we will be generating foreign exchange income by using the petrodollars. In other words, with the help of the foreign exchange we receive from oil, we can move toward freeing ourselves from our dependence on oil in the long run.

[Moderator] My last question is addressed to Mr Zanjani. One of the discussions heard now is about what the situation in the country will be after the 5-year plan. Of course, it may be difficult to make predictions, but what do you see on the horizon after the 5-year plan is implemented?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I think that we should define a program as a tool which allows us to move from an unfavorable situation toward a favorable one. Thus, this 5-year plan will want to remove the negative points of the current situation and to increase its positive and strong points. For example, the government's financial structure and the government's budget is not correct, and this is one of the major reasons for the economic instability, such as the budget deficit, in society. This, in turn, results in inflation. [passage omitted]

Let us assume that in the field of education, 85 to 86 percent of people between the ages of 6 and 35 are covered. This figure is to reach 97 percent in the 5-year plan. In other words, we can see a society which will be trying to educate this group, and all the negative effects of illiteracy will be removed.

Also, we are currently using 30 percent of our factories' capacity. This has had many negative effects inside the factories—on discipline, on management, on the operation of the machinery, on the quality of production, and on our active presence in the world market. But when, on the basis of our proposal—and there may be changes in this—we bring this percentage to 62-63 percent and pour goods into a society where there is a shortage now, a shortage which has contributed to the existence of two economies, the official and the unofficial, then we can see a different picture of a society emerging. [passage omitted]

I can say that under the plan our gross national product will experience positive growth. Per capita income will increase, which means an improvement of the people's welfare. We will try to reduce the rate of inflation. This does not mean the stabilization of prices [as heard]. We will try to produce 85 percent of our country's wheat needs. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] I thank both of you for being on this program. Dear viewers, I greet you together with Mr Alviri and Mr Zanjani. Good night.

Budget Commission Members Discuss 5-Year Plan

NC1509143889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1614 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Weekly political roundtable with Mir Valad from Malayer and Majd Ara' from Babolsar, Majlis deputies and members of the Planning and Budget Commission of the Islamic Majlis, with unidentified moderator in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] [passage omitted] In the last plan, two points were raised concerning the country's economic, social, and cultural development. One was that instead of general planning, we should embark on intensive planning in departments or a multi-objective planning. This was so that we could concentrate on one department in the country and focus all our attention on its expansion. In 1920, for example, the Soviet Union tried foremost to eliminate the electricity shortage. Another example is that of the Germans, who tried to eradicate unemployment.

The second point was that instead of departmental or multi-objective planning, we should have general planning; that is, the expansionist goals should include all the departments in the country. [passage omitted]

There is another viewpoint. Some experts wonder whether it would be better if planning would take into consideration the special capacities of the various parts of our country. In other words, a sort of regional planning should be done. What is your opinion?

[Mir Valad] [passage omitted] His Excellency Eng Musavi's government held joint sessions with the Majlis in order to present the 5-year plan to it as soon as possible. The government hoped to do so by the month of Tir [22 June-July], but they could not expedite planning based on regional considerations so they adopted another mechanism and form. According to the work done as of now by the plan and budget organization, the country is divided into 5 sections. [passage omitted]

For example, in the oil-rich areas, we can work on the oil industry or the petrochemical industry. In the agricultural areas, the emphasis was to be on agriculture or the local or regional potential in general. The eastern half of the country holds 20 percent of our population, with 80 percent in the western half. The underground resources of the eastern half comprise 80 percent of the country's entire minerals, while of the western half holds 20 percent. Hence the compiling and coordination of these resources must be assessed regionally, in the opinion of the regional experts. [passage omitted].

[Moderator] Mr Mir Valad, in an overall planning as we mentioned, priorities are specified. What are the sectors which have been allocated priority in the 5-year plan?

[Mir Valad] What the government has presented to the Majlis and is being debated for the second time is that the government believes no priorities should be specified in the program. In every economic area, it has defined a

specific area, and this is also one kind of a viewpoint. This does not amount to any priority allocation in the program. The work completed by the plan and budget commission so far is concentrated around two or three points. We said we would like to see how much foreign exchange and rials can be mustered for the agricultural sector to fulfill its needs. We wished to see what was the executive capacity of the country, its technical possibilities, how great was the extent of its specialized force and, in general, to what extent could the agricultural sector absorb the rial and the dollar for its expansion. The viewpoint of the Planning and Budget Commission was that we should give a free hand to the agricultural sector as far as its executive ability and technical possibilities would permit.[passage omitted]

Among the country's income earning resources, as you know nearly 80 to 85 percent of the country's income is based on oil. We gave greater emphasis to the oil and gas industries as well as to mining, and this work is being continued even now with the coordination of the oil commission, the Petroleum Ministry, and the Mines and Metals Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Majd Ara', one of the subjects discussed in the 5-year plan is how to utilize the large volume of liquid assets in the private sector. How will the plan do this?

[Majd Ara'] A few introductory remarks are in order. The first consideration of any person or group investing liquid assets and capital is profit—that is, legitimate profit. No one is ready to see his investment, the seeds he is planting, threatened, or to be slow to yield results, or be afflicted by calamities when it begins to yield results. This will make a person unwilling to invest his capital. We should resolve this situation. If we have not been successful in attracting liquid assets, for whatever reason, or if the investors were not able to invest their assets, we must find the causes. This is where the actual remedy should be sought.

If we were harmed by not being able to tap into this liquidity, or if investors were unable to invest their assets, we have to look for the reason and then begin taking remedial measures. Fortunately in light of the current atmosphere prevailing within the framework of the Constitution and sharia, planning has been based on those articles of the Constitution that protect those who wish to invest capital. This does not benefit only the wealthy. Anyone with initiative can invest his liquid assets, even if they are acquired through bank loans. [passage omitted]

If a person wishes to make an investment, we should provide him with the assurance that he will have every support and not fall victim to any unpleasant circumstances. Thus, Clause 19 has been included in the 5-year plan. This clause will be debated in the Majlis and its name or contents may be changed. The key industries have been clearly defined in the Constitution, and if the private sector wishes to invest its liquid assets in those specific sectors stipulated in the Constitution and whose products serve the cause of the country's self-sufficiency, it will be given every support. Considerable loans, rials, and foreign exchange will be placed at its disposal.

We are hopeful that in the next 5 years, for which, God willing, the prospects are bright, a large part of these assets will be used and that those who are able to invest do so in this second decade of of the revolution, which is one of reconstruction, and that we will be able to remove all present bottlenecks. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] One of the factors which has adversely affected agricultural production was the unbridled influx of farmers to the cities. If this continues, it does not seem likely that we will attain any sort of self-sufficiency in agricultural production in the period covered by the 5-year plan. What measures have been envisaged to adjust the population rate in the cities?

[Mir Valad] Your question has two parts. You mentioned the population rate in the urban areas at the end of your question and also the influx of the rural population to cities...

[Moderator, interrupting] This migration to the cities will obviously increase the urban population.

[Mir Valad] To stop the exodus of village residents to cities, we need to provide the same facilities in villages as we do in cities. In one of the clauses in the 5-year plan, it is stated that we should provide all facilities in the fields of education, health, agriculture, and so on in order that the people in the villages do not feel that life in the cities is better. Therefore, the 5-year plan envisages making the villages so attractive that residents are not eager to leave. [passage omitted.]

In brief, if we eliminate the hardships and problems in the villages, this will go a long way toward removing the problems created by the migration of villagers to cities. Of course, this will require some time and we do not claim that the 5-year plan will be a panacea for all the country's ills once it is approved in the Majlis. When we look at foreign countries, in Europe and elsewhere, we see that the roads are asphalted in villages as well as cities, and telephone service and other facilities are the same in rural and urban areas. Villagers are therefore happy and proud to live in the country and the migration in some cases is from the city to the country. If we create similar conditions here, we too will be successful. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] As time is running out, I will ask one more question: One of the issues officials have repeatedly mentioned is spiraling inflation and high prices. What measures does the 5-year plan envisage to prevent aggravating the situation and to curb inflation?

[Mir Valad] Certain points need to be noted if we are going to examine the roots of inflation. In my opinion, one is the budget deficit and the increase in the money supply, which results in further inflation. The second

point is the utilization of the liquid assets of the people and of the private sector in the form of cash and other assets which should be channeled into production. Another point is the operation of certain production centers, most of which were plagued by problems during the imposed war and are currently working at minimum capacity.

The rate of inflation should be brought down to about 9 percent by the end of the period covered by the 5-year plan, which I believe is one of its strong points. The plan also calls for reducing the budget deficit to 1.4 percent, which is another strong point and a very decisive one. If after 5 years we are able to achieve what has been proposed and later approved in the Majlis, this will have a definite effect on reducing the rate of inflation.

As for liquidity and the resumption of operations by production centers, our esteemed president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has stressed in his recent speeches that production should be resumed and we should concentrate on industries. We are optimistic that an inflation rate of 9 percent can definitely be achieved at the end of the 5-year plan. I believe that this is possible.

[Moderator] Thank you very much for participating in this program. Dear viewers, along with Messrs Majd Ara' and Mir Valad, I bid you farewell until the next program. Good night.

Agreement With India To Lessen Visa Problems

LD1609134189 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 16, IRNA—Iran and India signed a letter of understanding here Friday to remove consular and visa problems between the two countries.

According to the agreement the Indian Government would issue suspended diplomatic and administrative visas within three to four weeks.

India also agreed to speed up issuing of visas to Iranian students who have been admitted to the prestigious Indian universities, and for commercial purposes.

Meanwhile, Iranian ambassador to New Delhi Ebrahim Rahimpour who inked the letter agreed to renew residence visas and work permits for the Indian nationals in Iran, and also issue year-long visas for the teachers of the Indian schools in Iran.

The agreement was reached following the talks between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansouri and Director General of the Indian Foreign Ministry S.K. Singh here on 29 August this year.

Pakistan

Qian Qichen Stops Enroute to Middle East

BK1609052889 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister [Qian Qichen] arrived in Islamabad yesterday for a night's stay on the way to the Middle East. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan received him at the airport. They had friendly exchange of views on regional situation and matters of mutual interest.

U.S. Support Against Indian Threat Urged

BK1809034089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 89

[M. Ziauddin Commentary]

[Text] The foreign assistance bill approved by the United States Senate Appropriation Committee includes a $460 million aid package for Pakistan. This is a welcome development. But what else to welcome is the continued concern of the U.S. Senate committee over Pakistan's legitimate efforts to reinforce its security in a highly volatile region. For the last 10 years the western borders of Pakistan were under direct threat from two separate wars. One was the Iran-Iraq war and the other was the Afghan war which is still continuing in the shape of a civil war after the withdrawal of the occupying Soviet forces. And, on its eastern borders, Pakistan has been facing a country which not only has hegemonic ambitions, but which also has so far not accepted in its heart [word indistinct] the partition of the subcontinent in 1947. And, it is this country alone with which Pakistan has fought three unfinished wars. And, in the last war India dismembered the country.

In the recent years India had steadily crept up into Pakistani territory on the Siachen Glacier and has staked its claim on this part of Pakistan on the plea that in the original partition documents no demarcation line was marked separating Pakistani territory from Indian territory. And, to top it all, India has been (?similarly) occupying a big part of Kashmir illegally despite the fact that the people of [Indian]-held Kashmir are even today after 40 years of occupation struggling to liberate themselves from the Indian yoke. This is what Pakistan is facing.

And, if proof was needed of Indian hegemonic intentions, one only has to ask the Sri Lankan and the Nepalese how they were treated by the big brother when they tried to assert independent nationalistic postures. This is what Pakistan is facing. And, if, in order to enhance its capability to protect its independence and territorial integrity against such odds, no one should feel concerned, especially those who claim to support the new democratic dispensation that is taking root in the country. [as heard]

The United States of all the countries should know that the best deterrent against external threat is high-level defense capability. India has already exploded a nuclear device and over the years acquired the capability to deliver. It is only the fear of a basement bomb in Pakistan's possession that India has so far resisted the temptation to use its nuclear weaponry against Pakistan. And, in order to render reality to this fear, Pakistan needs to develop its own missiles. So, it would only be logical under the circumstances for the United States to view the [nuclear] matter in a regional perspective and use its influence over India to sit down across the table with Pakistan for a nuclear talk on a regional basis. This approach alone would guarantee a nuclear weapon-free South Asia.

Editorial Urges Pakistan To Become Nuclear Power

BK1509140589 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 31 Aug 89 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Policy—No Need for Any Fear or Hesitation"]

[Text] In an interview to AFP, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan has the nuclear know-how to meet any threat, but, in her opinion, there is a great difference between nuclear know-how and nuclear capability. The prime minister's remarks here are slightly different from her earlier stand and the categorical statement she made during her tour of the United States that "we neither have any nuclear bomb nor will we make one." Now coming closer to national aspirations, the prime minister has at least made an encouraging declaration that Pakistan might make use of the nuclear know-how in the event of any threat. In this way, Pakistan's new elected government has given up its earlier hesitation and given an indication of keeping the nuclear option open. For any Pakistani government or any party desiring to form a government, talking openly about the country's nuclear policy is nothing short of a difficult test. If it does so under natural compulsions, it becomes unpopular at home; and if it openly talks about the nuclear policy that is in keeping with national aspirations, it invites the wrath and anger of the influential world powers.

Everyone knows that the United States, Europe, the Soviet Union, the Hindus, and the Jews would not like to see Pakistan become a nuclear power, mainly because Pakistan is an Islamic state. In fact, the world nuclear club has no objection to the nuclear activities of India, South Africa, and Israel, but at the very suspicion of any nuclear research activity in Pakistan, Iraq, and Libya, the entire world raises a hue and cry and starts complaining about the "Islamic Bomb." Iraq's desire for an atom bomb has been shattered by Israel, so then it was only Pakistan which could make any headway in the nuclear field. Therefore, to block the way, a propaganda campaign was launched on the one hand and on the other, Israeli and Indian forces were persuaded to launch a joint preemptive strike at Pakistan's nuclear center. In

addition to this, the United States and the international financial institutions stopped providing loans and aid to Pakistan to meet its legitimate economic and defense requirements. In short, they left no stone unturned in restraining Pakistan. But, in spite of this hostile opposition, it was impossible for Pakistan to retreat from the path of nuclear research, because its neighboring and eternal adversary, India which, according to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's remarks in the aforementioned interview, has "invaded Pakistan thrice," had made public its ambitions by conducting a nuclear explosion in 1974.

India's war machinery is no less effective than that of any superpower. Its Navy is equipped with nuclear submarines and its Air Force with missiles like Agni, Akash, Prithvi, Trishul, and Nag. The Agni missile, whose striking range is 2,500 miles, is capable of carrying even nuclear weapons to targets. According to latest press reports, India is to test fire a new missile. With such a huge stockpile of arms in its arsenal, India is desiring to become not merely a regional hegemonistic power but also a superpower at the international level, because the Nehru family is specifically trying to turn India into a "Hindu Ashoka Kingdom" to perpetuate its personal family rule. It is a historical fact that whenever this family has faced opposition within the country, it has invaded a neighboring country to distract its people's attention from the main problem.

It is also election time in India, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is unpopular throughout the country because of his immature policies. The Indian opposition parties have called a nationwide general strike to force Rajiv Gandhi to resign, and it is feared that following in the footsteps of his mother, Rajiv Gandhi might also stir a war between India and Pakistan to escape defeat in the general elections. He has already enforced a blockade of Nepal and maintains troops in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. All these measures are intended to prove to the Indian voters that Rajiv Gandhi is a bold and courageous person.

To meet this situation, the Pakistani leadership should also give proof of its extraordinary courage and boldness. Pakistan cannot meet these threats only with the help of conventional weapons which it can ill afford to acquire and, hence, the situation and also the wisdom demand that Islamabad should continue its progress in the nuclear field as a deterrent. It is not necessary to display one's insanity by using such a weapon. So far, this foolish step has been taken only by the United States which raises objections to [nuclear programs of—FBIS] others while its own hands are stained with the blood it spilled at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the United States has had no courage to use a nuclear weapon simply because now the United States is not the only nuclear power. In accordance with this principle, the only befitting reply to the Indian demon's nuclear threat is that Pakistan should also become a nuclear power on a par with India, because the secret of Pakistan's effective and credible defense lies in this principle.

Spokesman Denies Bhutto To Visit Dhaka

BK1509154089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has described as a figment of imagination the report published today in a certain section of the press that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay a visit to Bangladesh while on her way home after attending the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Kuala Lumpur next month. The spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Bangladesh president has invited the prime minister to visit his country, but no date has yet been fixed for this visit.

Indian Official Declared Persona Non Grata

BK1509165089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1647 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 15 (AFP)—Pakistan has expelled an official of the Indian Embassy here in an apparent tit for tat for the alleged mistreatment of an employee at Islamabad's mission in New Delhi, newspapers reported Friday.

H.C. Panday, who worked at the visa section of the Indian Embassy, was declared persona non grata for "activities incompatible with his duties," the Urdu-language daily JANG said. The phrase is used as a euphemism for espionage.

The English-language daily DAWN said Mr. Panday was "probably an intelligence agent." It said he boarded a New Delhi-bound plane Monday after he was found "involved in objectionable activities."

Indian Charge d'Affaires T.C.A. Rangachary declined to comment on the reports, but Pakistani sources confirmed the Indian official has been declared persona non grata, the press said.

Officials in the government here and the Indian Embassy were unavailable for comment as Friday is part of the weekend in Pakistan.

The action follows the detention of Pakistani Embassy employee Abdul Shakoor, who was allegedly beaten up after being hauled in by plainclothes policemen in New Delhi on August 23.

Indian reports said secret documents had been found in Mr. Shakoor's possession, but the charge was denied by Pakistan.

The expulsion this week was the first since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's nine-month old government launched a campaign to normalise relations between the two mutually suspicious neighbours, which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

Six Killed In Hyderabad Violence, Curfew Imposed

BK1709152789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Six persons were killed and 25 injured in various incidents of violence in Hyderabad today. Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has expressed deep grief over the loss of life in these incidents. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad this evening, he said that the government is fully aware of those involved in such incidents and it will take stern steps against them. The chief minister said that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the people's life and property and we are committed to protecting the people.

The district administration of Hyderabad has imposed a curfew with immediate effect in all areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad except SITE and Cantonment police station areas. It will remain in force until further notice.

Assistance to Libya in Agricultural Research

BK1709024689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Pakistan will assist Libya in the field of agricultural research and development. This was announced by the chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council on his return to Islamabad after an 8-day visit to Libya. He said both countries will cooperate with each other in the field of seed production and research.

Sri Lanka

Agreement on Troop Withdrawal, Cease-Fire Signed

BK1809045689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] In a major diplomatic breakthrough following talks between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, in Belgrade [during the Nonaligned Movement Summit], India and Sri Lanka signed a joint communique in Colombo this morning. It has provisions for full implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement and for ensuring the safety and security of the Tamils in the Northeastern Province of the island.

The communique, which was signed by the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr Mehrotra, and the Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr Bernard Tilakaratana, also provides for the setting up of a peace committee in the Northeast Province to enable all groups to join the democratic process and end violence in the province.

A security coordination group comprising representatives of Sri Lankan Government; the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadraj Perumal; and the GOC [General Officer Commanding] of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] has been set up. It will suggest measures to ensure the safety and security of the Tamils and other communities as the deinduction of the PKF proceeds.

In the light of arrangements which have been agreed upon for devolution of powers making the Northeastern Province council more effective for ensuring the safety and security of the Tamils and other ethnic communities, New Delhi has agreed to make all efforts to complete deinduction of the Peacekeeping Force from Sri Lanka by the 31st of December.

The PKF will also suspend offensive military operations from 0600 on Wednesday, the 20th of September.

It may be recalled that the process of deinduction recommenced on the 29th of July earlier this year. India has already made clear that suspension of PKF operations were subject to operational conditions.

The communique also provides for the constitution of an observer group consisting of the Sri Lankan army commander and the GOC of the PKF to report any violation of the cessation of hostilities and immediate consequential action taken and recommend the further remedial action.

India Accuses LTTE of Killing 11 Civilians

BK1609032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] India has charged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] with the wanton killing of 11 civilians in eastern Sri Lanka after it lost seven of its men in an encounter with the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] on Wednesday [13 September]. The Indian High Commission said in a statement in Colombo yesterday that the LTTE fired rocket launchers, machine guns, and rifles on the school, following the encounter in Muttur sector in Trincomalee District.

He said four Indian soldiers were also killed in the encounter.

Over 100 Killed in Escalation of Violence

BK1709061489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 17 (AFP)—Over 100 people died and dozens of bodies burning on rubber tires turned up in several parts of Sri Lanka as anti-government rebels and vigilantes stepped up their violence, official here said Sunday [17 September].

The slaughter of families of security personnel by militants, and retaliatory attacks, left at least 100 people dead in Central Province on Thursday and Friday, security sources here said.

The state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER said "unidentified gunmen had killed a large number of persons, including women and children" in Menikhinna area on Thursday, although there was no official confirmation of the report.

Security sources said the retaliatory attacks were triggered after gunmen, believed to be from the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), killed at least 15 relatives of security personnel.

Suspected JVP men also torched three houses of police officers and killed four people in the family of a retired village headman in the area on Thursday.

"Reports from the area are still sketchy. First reports are that just over 100 were killed," a source said, adding that anti-JVP vigilantes were believed involved in the killings.

The source said the killings took place in several villages and that, in one place alone, 18 bodies were found and 30 houses were torched by anti-JVP groups.

Residents in Kandy, the capital of Central Province, said five bodies were seen near the town Saturday and six more, including five women, were found in a neighbouring town.

In violence elsewhere, bodies burning on rubber tires were found in eight places in a southern village Saturday, official sources said. They said the victims were either JVP activists or sympathisers.

Both the JVP and anti-JVP vigilantes have stepped up attacks in the past few days, boosting the daily death toll in the embattled island republic.

The Sinhalese radical JVP is waging a violent campaign to overthrow the government.

A government statement Sunday said 424 suspected subversives, an official term for JVP activists, had been arrested in search operations across the country in the past 24 hours.

The statement also said that security forces shot dead a hardcore subversive as he tried to escape from a safe house in eastern province. Subversives had also torched several government buildings in central and southern regions.

In the island's Tamil-populated north-east, eight people, including seven Tamil guerrillas, were killed in separate clashes in the past 24 hours, the statement said.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is waging a bush war against some 42,000 Indian troops deployed in the northeast in line with a 1987 bilateral peace pact.

'Several' Government Buildings Burning; 18 Dead

BK1509155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, several government buildings were set on fire by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists today in the continuing violence. A government communique said the buildings were set ablaze in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Kalutara districts and Uva Province. Eighteen people were killed in various parts of the island nation. Nine bodies were recovered from Kandy area and the rest from other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were killed and nine wounded in separate encounters with the Peacekeeping Force yesterday.

16 JVP Men Killed; 52 Bodies Found in Kandy

BK1609163589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 16 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] men have been killed in encounters with security forces as 52 bodies were recovered in central Kandy District. An official communique said in Colombo that the encounters took place in southern Sri Lanka. The communique has not given details.

Reports of arson continue to come in from southern and central Sri Lanka. An unspecified number of government buildings have been set on fire and official records and documents destroyed. Over 220 people suspected to have links with the JVP have been taken into custody for questioning. A security official said that bodies recovered in central Kandy District are yet to be identified. The bodies were recovered from three villages in the district. The security official said the JVP was responsible for the killings.

About 200 Subversives Arrested in Last 24 Hours

BK1609132689 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] About 200 suspected subversives were taken into custody during operations carried out by the security forces and the police throughout the island during the last 24 hours. In the Colombo District, in (Triangala), during a cordon and search operation, police killed two (?suspected) subversives and recovered a shotgun and some cartridges. The security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition in Gampaha, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Badulla, and Nuwara Eliya areas. The security forces raided a hideout at Sirikandura in Atugama, killing one subversive and recovered three shotguns, cartridges, police and army uniforms. In the Anuradhapura District at Kalankutiiya in (Sambutaigama) [number indistinct] subversives ambushed a police patrol. Police retaliated, killing one subversive and recovered two shot guns and cartridges. At Tirappane, during a cordon and search operation, the security forces shot dead one suspected subversive.

The curfew will be reimposed at 2300 today and will be lifted at 0400 tomorrow.